Bomb blast hits Maguindanao gas station; 4 injured

Story on PAGE A2

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- **Iraq to accept UN resolution, say Arabs**
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Dante Ang fumes, files P60-M suit

LAGOT KAYO! GALIT NA SIYA!

DANTE Ang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's senior adviser for public relations, is mad as hell and he can't take it anymore. His detractors have called him a

DANTE/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, November 11, 2002 ★ 72 pages / 6 sections / vol. 17 / no. 336
P15
website: www.inq7.net

Imelda: No ₱2-B compromise deal

'We can't even pay our electric bills'

By Cristina Arzadon, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*
and Norman Bordadora, *in Manila*

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—No such deal.

Former first lady Imelda Marcos yesterday denied reports that the Marcos family had entered into a P2-billion settlement of an ownership dispute involving the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"If that were true, then we would have been able to pay our debts. We wouldn't be so hard up anymore," she said in Filipino, during a chance interview at the Marcos ancestral house here.

But the first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, charged yesterday that Mrs. Marcos was not only liable for the P2-billion "mystery" settlement, but also for the $800 million she previously admitted the Marcos family kept in various foreign banks. At today's exchange rate, the deposits she confirmed in an interview on March 26, 1998 amount to some P42.4 billion.

A prepared statement circulated earlier by her office did not specifically mention the alleged mystery settlement, which the PCGG wants the Bureau of Internal Revenue to investigate.

But a group of former Marcos loyalists, led by organizer Cherry Cobarrubias and broadcaster Rita Gaddi, has severed their ties with Ms Marcos, alleging that the former first lady had already settled the dispute over the Ramon Cojuangco shares in PLDT but failed to compensate Marcos supporters.

Mrs. Marcos said she was sorry to hear about the rift. "I am very sad because I will miss them a lot. I thought . . . they were intensely vocal Marcos loyalists. *Isa pang*

IMELDA/ A21

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos dances the night away at the Klub Don Juan de Manila gala night held last month at the Shangri-La in Makati City. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Imelda knows that I know who she really is'

By Juliet L. Javellana

(Second of a series)

SHE has known Imelda Marcos for 39 years and worked for her for 27, but now Rita Gaddi is Marcos loyalist no more.

Gaddi, who was a high-profile government broadcaster during the martial law period and served on Imelda's legal team when the former first lady was tried in New York, said the flamboyant widow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos knew why she had severed her ties with her.

"She knows that I know who she really is," Gaddi said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Gaddi is now allied "with a lot of people who are disgruntled

IMELDA/ A18

GADDI: Ex-Marcos loyalist

A case of divine justice?

By Christine O. Avendaño

"IS this karma?"

A former human rights victim of martial law turned legislator said yesterday that the rift between former first lady Imelda Marcos and four of her core loyalists was justice of a divine kind.

"God has His way of bringing about truth and justice," Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said.

A former teacher, Rosales said the report that Rita Gaddi, Cherry Cobarrubias, Anthony Violago and Nonoy Escolin had turned on Imelda had an unmistakable moral.

"The lesson to be learned here is no matter how much money is spent to deceive people, *may hangganan 'yan* (there is a limit)," she said. "The elements of truth and justice get back at you."

Yesterday, the INQUIRER reported that the four ex-loyalists were publishing a tell-all book, detailing all they know about the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Apparently, Rosales said, the former Marcos loyalists were disgruntled with Imelda because she "be-

A CASE/ A19

Coup rumors fester amid disaffection

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

WITHIN 23 months of the Macapagal administration, it has been buffeted by at least half a dozen coup-plotting rumors. All these alleged conspiracies never developed into anything serious and eventually fizzled out, except the rebellion of the poor that stormed Malacañang on May 1, 2001.

But the mere fact that coup reports have frequently recurred is a symptom of a strong undercurrent of rising disaffection with the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Fanning the dissatisfaction are malcontents inside the military and disenchanted former allies in the Edsa II coalition that waged a campaign leading to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

The President apparently recognizes this dissatisfaction and is responding to the coup reports with a planned Cabinet revamp (see INQUIRER, Nov. 9) to project a rejuvenation. But the projected revamp offers no new faces, is merely a recycling of Cabinet members, and is a cosmetic facelift.

It does not address the widespread and strong public perception—shared by the business community and acknowledged by even senior military leaders—that the Macapagal administration is being undermined, not by the political opposition or the noisy "civil society" groups, but by people closely associated with her who are perceived to be engaged in unexplained wealth accumulation and rent-seeking activities.

Unless the President addresses this spreading perception and shows decisive action to curb these activities, they

COUP/ A18

Tiglao denies revamp; Herrera admits offer

By Carlito Pablo
and Tony S. Bergonia

PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday maintained that a Cabinet revamp was not in the works as part of administration efforts to relaunch a "strong republic" campaign.

"*Wala talaga* (There is really none)," Tiglao said after the INQUIRER broke the story of a supposed impending reshuffle of Cabinet members before the end of the year.

"The alleged source quite obviously wants to use the prestigious INQUIRER to pressure the President to fire Cabinet secretaries he has an axe to grind (with) or whom he has omnisciently decided to be ineffective," he said in a phone interview.

But former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, one of those reported to be a candidate for a Cabinet post, said that he had known about the revamp much earlier.

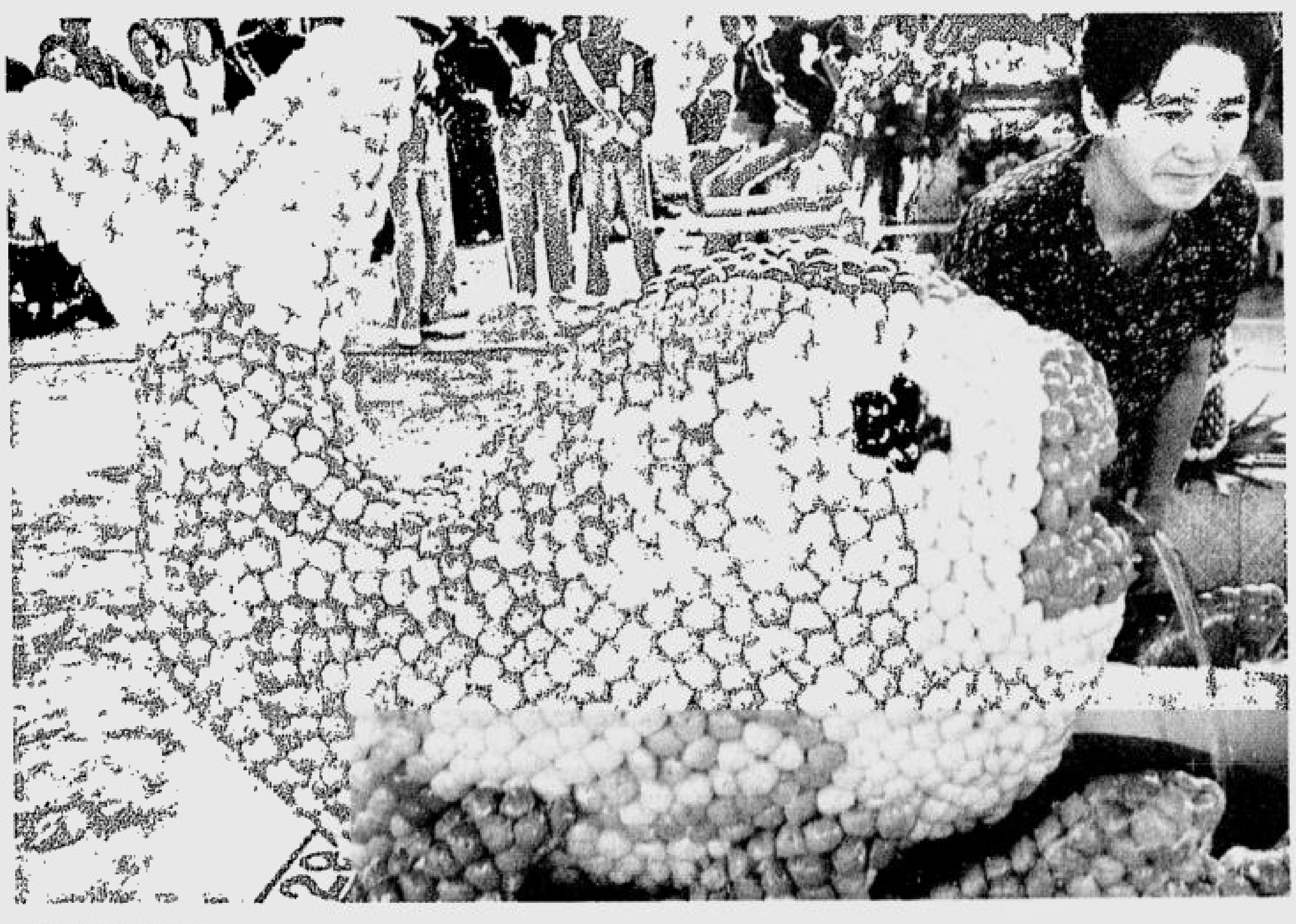
Interviewed in Cebu City, Herrera said he learned from Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo three months ago that there would be a revamp. "I was not surprised when reports came out about a reshuffle or a Cabinet revamp because Bert Romulo told me three months ago that there will be a revamp before 2003 or before 2002 ends," he said.

Herrera said he was again offered the labor portfolio recently but that he declined because he would rather remain in the private sector.

Another former senator said Herrera had instead recommended Roy Señeres, chair of the National Labor Relations Commission, as the replacement of Patricia Sto. Tomas in the labor department. Señeres was the former Philippine ambassador to the UAE who rose to national prominence for his handling of the Sarah Balabagan case

Herrera said one of the reasons for the

TIGLAO/ A18



'PUTO' CRAZE
Valenzuela City's favorite delicacy, the "puto" (rice cake), came in different forms and shapes, during the Putong Polo Festival held at the city plaza on Sunday, coinciding with the feast of its patron saint, San Diego de Alcala. JOAN BONDOC

CBCP: Shift from streets to classrooms

CHURCH leaders are again summoning people power to move the youth from the street to the classroom in a show of support for the adopt-a-school program launched by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

"The program is a step in the right direction . . . toward helping the disadvantaged in society, the rural poor and even the tribal minorities," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said.

In a telephone interview, Coronel said the project was a shot in the arm for the CBCP's own program on "human promotion" through education.

"For poor children, education is their only way out of poverty," he said, adding that the foundation's program was a "long-term approach in resolving poverty."

As envisioned by its chair, Eugenia D. Apostol, the FWWPP is spearheading the program to spur interest and encourage the full implementation of the provisions of the Adopt-a-School Act (Republic Act No. 8525) of 1998.

The foundation has tasked itself with

CBCP/ A19

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

4 hurt in Maguindanao bomb blast

COTABATO CITY—Four persons were wounded in a bomb blast on Saturday at a Petron gas station owned by Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, the military said yesterday.

Authorities suspect renegade members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front were behind the attack in Shariff Aguak town, Maguindanao, regional military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero told Agence France Presse.

The homemade bomb was concealed in a plastic bag and left in a garbage can, triggering an explosion that damaged the gasoline station.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said four civilians—Dina Datuan, 30; a gasoline pump boy, Johnny Rex, 17; Dali Oke, 15; and a certain "Bulldog"—were wounded in the explosion which occurred at 2:45 p.m.

Ando said an unidentified man with a bag had gone to the station to buy gasoline and hurriedly left, leaving the bag beside the gasoline pump. Seconds later, the bag exploded.

He said the bomb was made of a 60mm mortar shell with a timing device.

Malacañang meanwhile ruled out a United States missile strike against suspected terrorists here similar to the controversial Central Intelligence Agency mission that killed six suspected al-Qaida members in Yemen.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao stressed the differences between the Philippines and Yemen, where there apparently was a strong indication that al-Qaida was present.

The Philippines does not think "it's necessary because this is not Yemen or some other area where there are apparent, or there are clear, presence of al-Qaida leaders," Tiglao said.

Tiglao's remarks came in response to US state department coordinator for counterterrorism Francis Taylor's statement that the Yemen strike was legal, necessary and may be emulated in Southeast Asia, which has been hit by a wave of terrorist bombings.

The US government has not extended an "official request" to conduct such an operation in the Philippines, Tiglao noted, stressing that what was most needed by the Armed Forces was better weapons and intelligence.

"All we need now is more capable, more properly equipped AFP troops and beefing up of their technological intelligence capabilities," said Tiglao.

Any US missile attack here without permission "would be an intrusion into our sovereignty," he added. *Carlito Pablo and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with AFP*

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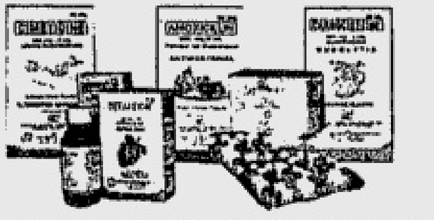

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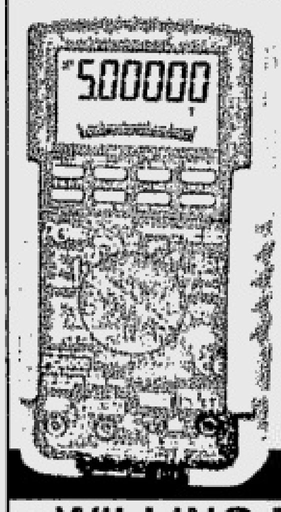

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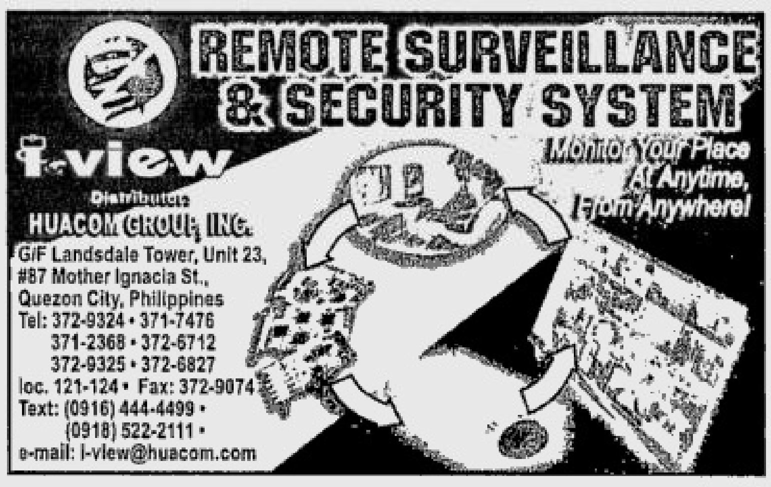

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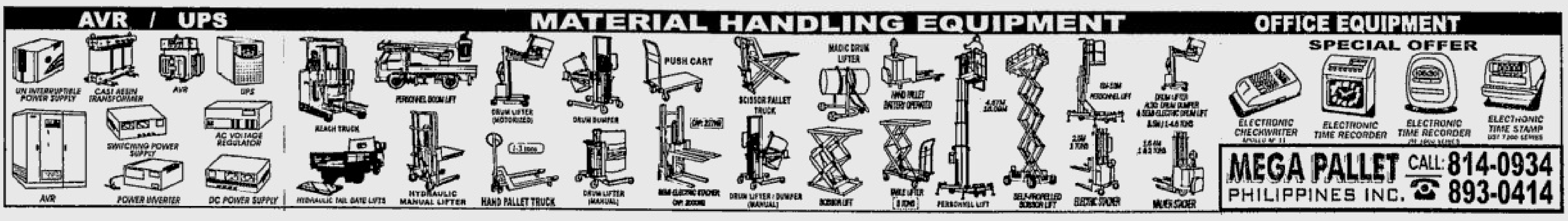

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'Revolving door' a problem, Palace admits

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday conceded that President Macapagal-Arroyo's "revolving door" policy of appointing Armed Forces chiefs of staff to short terms posed a "problem."

"(Ms Macapagal) is very much aware of that problem," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said, when asked if the policy affected the implementation of military reforms.

Tiglao did not elaborate, but added: "She hopes this problem could be addressed appropriately at the proper time."

President Macapagal has defended her "revolving door" policy by saying she is a "hands on" commander-in-chief and military programs were firmly in place regardless of who was sitting at the helm of the AFP.

The President has so far appointed two short-term chiefs of staff in the persons of Gen. Roy Cimatu, who served about four months before retiring, and outgoing chief of staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr., who will step down on Nov. 18 after two months in the post.

The President has named Army chief Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago to succeed Defensor. Santiago is due to retire in April 2003.

Asked if Santiago would be another short-term chief, Tiglao would only say, "The President has full confidence in General Santiago."

Yesterday, both Defensor and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes defended Malacañang's "revolving door" policy by saying the military was stable enough to allow for short terms for its chiefs of staff.

"All of them (three-star generals) can walk into this job and assume the position, so when you speak of the vision, the strategy, they are already there," Reyes said.

Defensor said that instead of weakening the military, the "revolving door" policy could show it was strong even under the leadership of short-term chiefs of staff. *With Martin P. Marfil*

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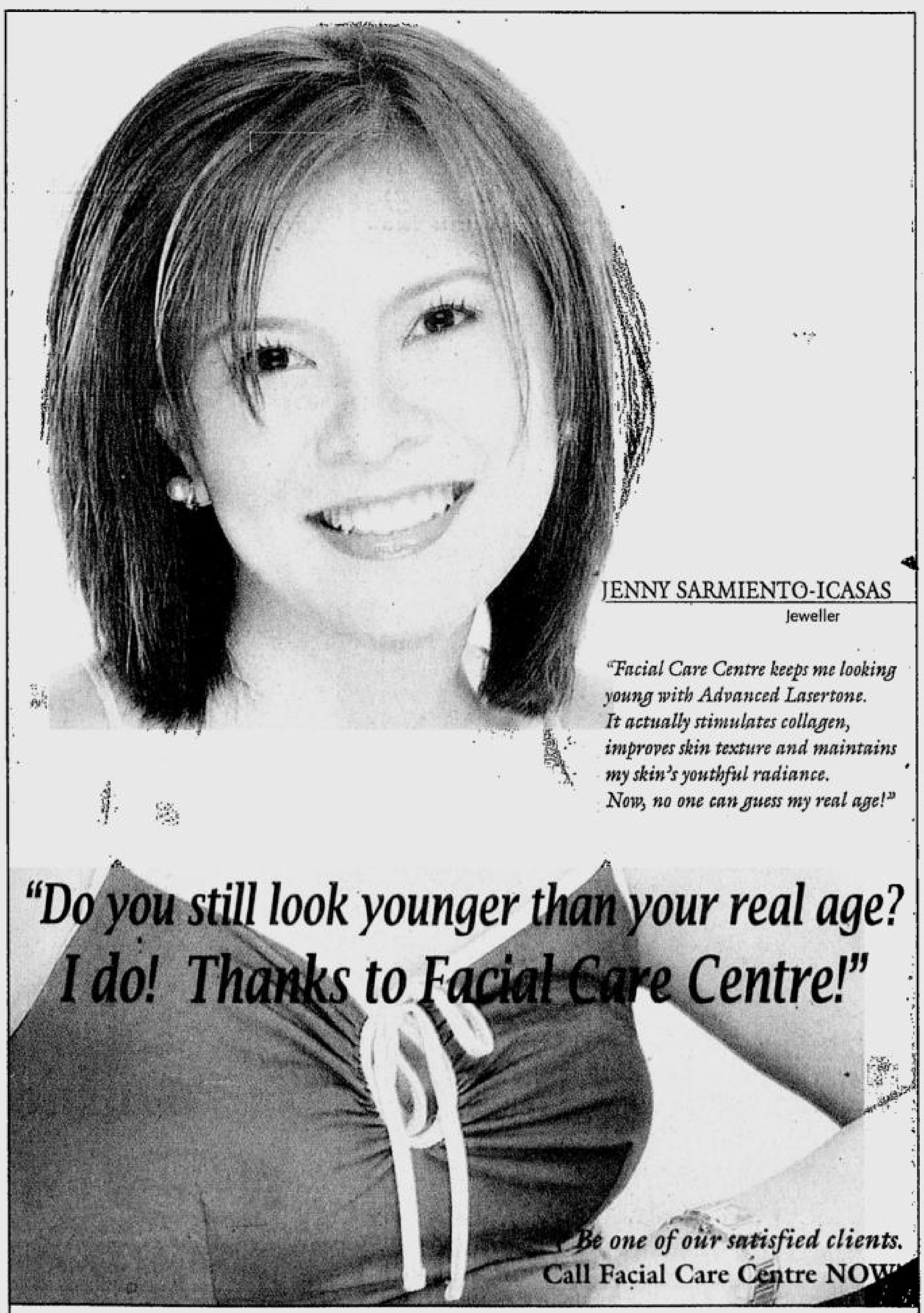
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Ang's bank offers to settle ₱40-M problem

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANKWISE has offered to settle the problem of the P40 million in funds that Prama Foundation, a group of foreign retirees, alleged was diverted by the mid-sized thrift bank chaired by presidential publicist Dante Ang.

The bank initially agreed to return the money said to have been siphoned into the account of BankWise majority owner Seed Capital Inc., but only if Prama dropped the complaints it filed last month with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the National Bureau of Investigation.

When Prama rejected the deal last week, BankWise offered anew to pay the non-government group P1 million a week in cashier's checks. The retirees turned down this scheme as well.

Prama wants full payment before it even considers dropping the charges.

Totalling P43.54 million, the funds in question consist of the combined peso and dollar accounts of Prama Foundation ($313,540.26 and P1,205,170.96), Prama president Ramon Collado ($473,567.70 and P236,806.64), and another NGO led by Collado called Civil Society Foundation, Inc. (P1,172,926.47). The amount includes interest up to Sept. 30, 2002.

A source said BankWise president Lazaro Madara and bank director Vicente Campa met with Prama officials led by finance and administrative manager Rica Mipana last week to propose a compromise.

A medium-sized thrift lender with four branches in Metro Manila and one each in Cebu and Davao, BankWise is currently 60 percent owned by Seed Capital and 40 percent by Wise Corp.

Ang was invited by Guevara to invest in Seed Capital, and was elected chair of the bank last April.

Dressing down

A banking source said Madara and Campa got a dressing down from board chair Ang and Seed Capital Inc. chair Roberto Guevara following the Prama controversy. Guevara, an investment banker, helped design the controversial zero-coupon bonds sold by the government to Code-NGO last year.

Collado, a Spanish lawyer who retired in the Philippines, was arrested last month by the immigration bureau after his visa was cancelled by the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA), the state agency tasked to screen and grant permits to working retirees.

His Prama Foundation, established to put up a health care fund and retirement villages for foreign retirees, had long been at odds with the PLRA.

BankWise reportedly became involved in the mess after its officials convinced Prama and Collado deposit their funds in the bank. In exchange, the bank reportedly promised that its influential chair, Ang, could help solve Prama's problems with the PLRA.

In their complaints, Collado and the retirees group said they had committed a combined investment of $280,000 in Seed Capital for a one-year period starting Jan. 12, 2001. The money should have been returned exactly a year later. Instead, other deposits of Collado and the groups he represented were transferred to Seed Capital without authorization.

And Collado found himself in jail.

The Spanish lawyer alleged in his complaint before the BSP that the bank officials were in cahoots with PLRA officials.

Formerly known as the Philippine Retirement Authority, PLRA approves resident visa applications of foreign retirees. With each applicant required to pay a one-time fee of between $50,000 and $75,000, the agency manages substantial funds.

PLRA is headed by Antonio Leviste, husband of Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste. Its ex-officio board includes Trade Secretary and Monetary Board member Mar Roxas II, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

Senate hopes to deliver some bills by Christmas

By Rocky Nazareno

CONGRESS reopens today with 13 bills lined up for deliberation in the Senate, according to majority leader Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

Legarda said Senate majority members are set to meet in caucus today to decide which bills to prioritize in order to be ready for signing into law by the President—or at least be approved by the Senate—before Congress goes on Christmas break on Dec. 19.

The bills to be tackled concern the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Transco, the Manila Electric Co. franchise, the Ombudsman Act, Judiciary Salary Standardization and Coverage Exemption, Securitization Act, Magna Carta for the Working Child, Clean Water Act, Sustainable Management of Forest Resources, National Land Use Policy, Revised Public Land Act of the Philippines, Government Procurement Reform Act of 2002 and the Preparatory Recall Assembly.

Legarda said the appointment of members of the Senate contingent to the bicameral conference committee on the absentee voting law will be taken up during the caucus.

During the two-week break, the technical working group (TWG) representing the Senate and the House finished deliberations on vital issues of the absentee voting law.

"The TWG tried its best to unify the disagreeing provisions of both versions of the bill," Legarda said.

She cited reports that overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East—where some 1.2 million OFWs are deployed—had expressed concern they might not be able to vote in 2004 if the slow pace of consolidating the Senate and House versions of the bill continued.

Prosecution ready for Erap's lawyers

By Volt Contreras

"GO ahead," Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo dared the attorneys of Joseph Estrada, after the lawyers threatened to cite documents from the infamous "second envelope" when they cross-examine prosecution star witness Clarissa Ocampo during the ex-president's plunder trial today.

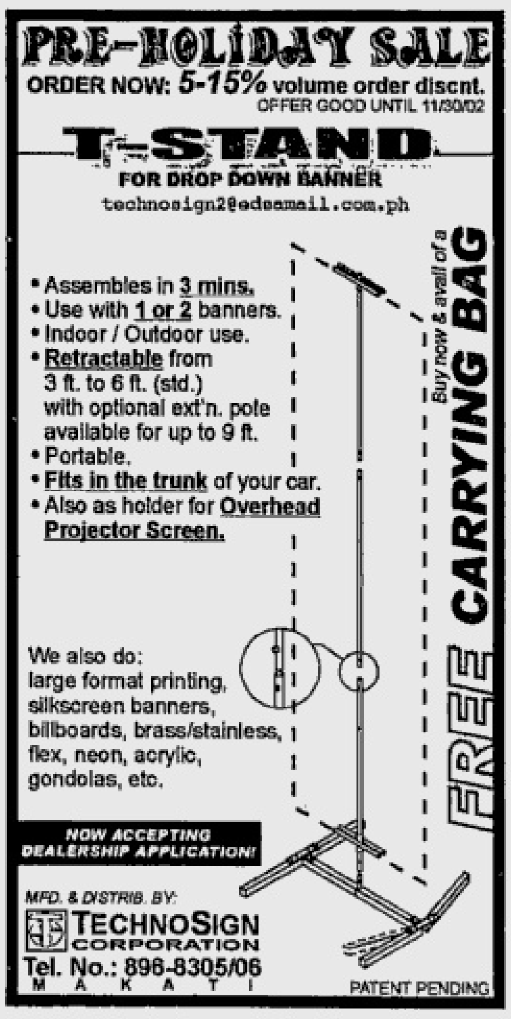
In an interview last weekend, Marcelo said the prosecution was ready for the defense plan to capitalize on a letter dated Aug. 25, 1999 that claimed Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves was the real owner of the controversial "Jose Velarde" account.

The letter was purportedly written by Dichaves and requested Equitable-PCI Bank senior vice president Romualdo Dy Tang to open a savings account and a current account "for Jose Velarde, care of the undersigned (Dichaves)."

Marcelo maintained that "care of" meant Dichaves was acting in behalf of a principal—Estrada.

The Velarde account at Equitable-PCIB's Juan Luna, Binondo branch was said to have contained up to P3.2 billion at one point and was where Estrada allegedly kept kickbacks, gifts and bribes amassed during his short-lived presidency.

On Dec. 22, 2000, Ocampo, then EPCIB senior vice president, testified during Estrada's Senate impeachment trial that she personally witnessed the ex-president sign the name Jose Velarde to bank documents loaning P500 million from the account to businessman William Gatchalian.



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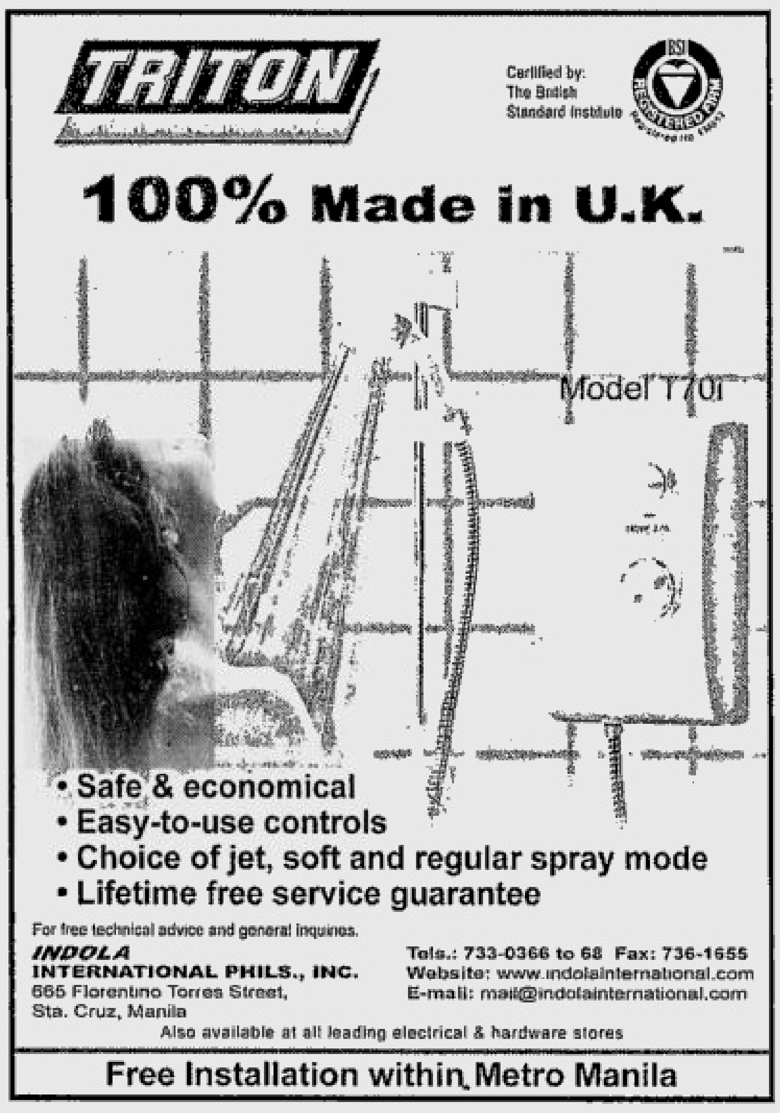

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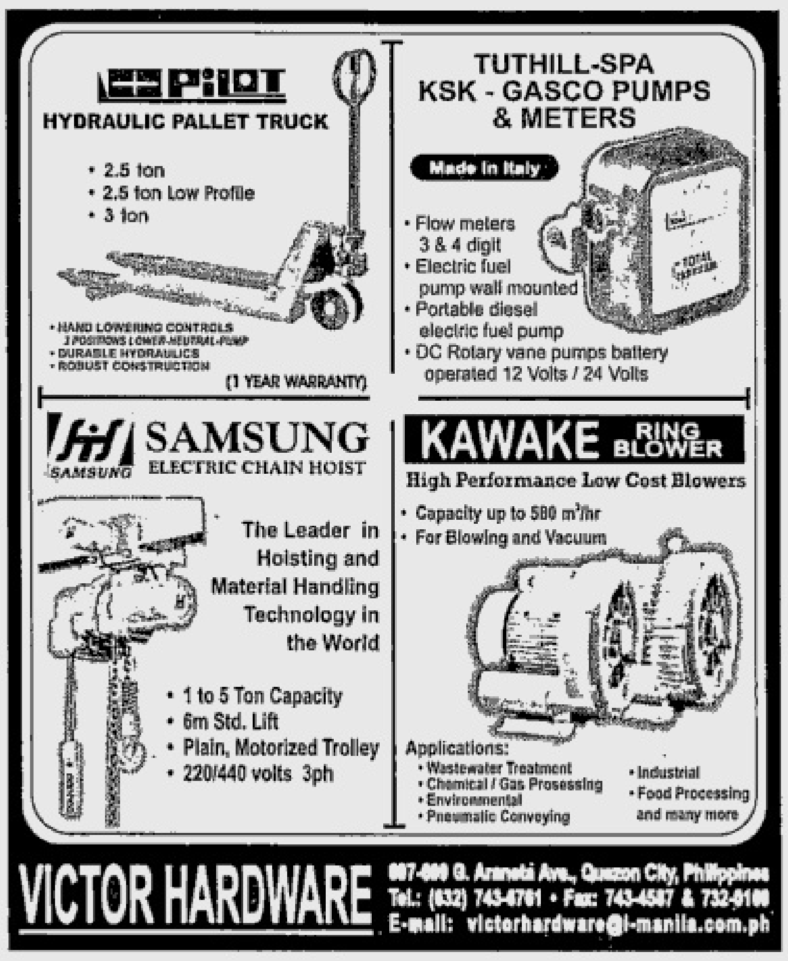

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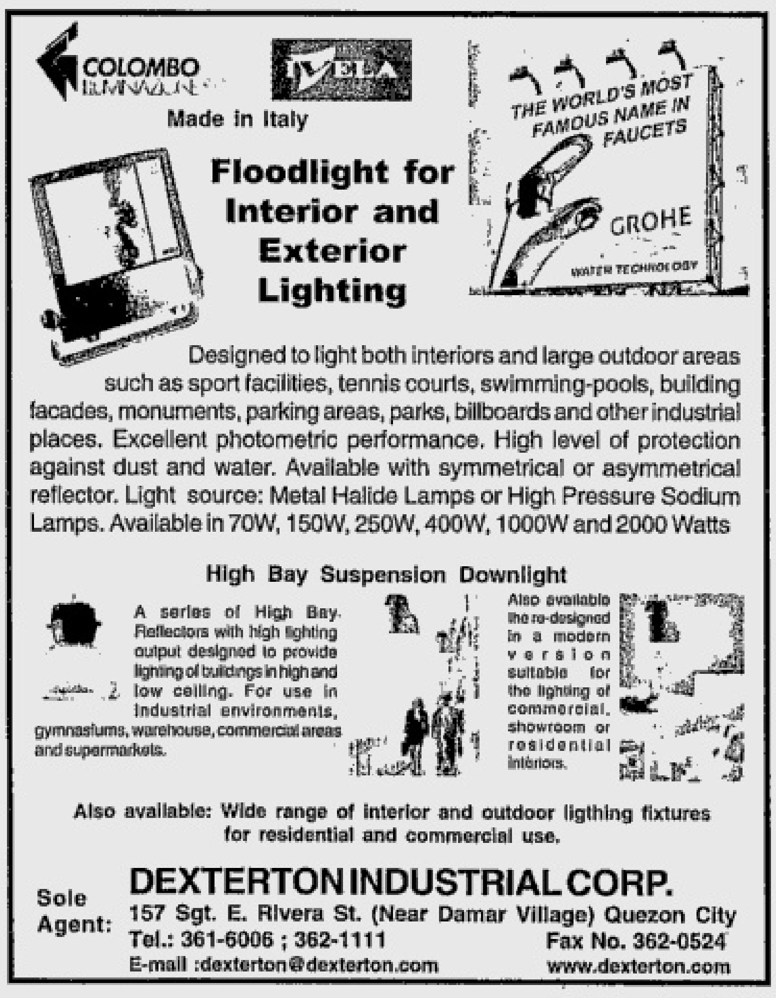

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Bumbling abductors make cops job easier

By C. V. Esguerra

THREE men were arrested Saturday some four hours after they allegedly kidnapped a Japanese-Filipino boy from his home in Muntinlupa City.

The men and two others had disguised themselves as telephone linemen to get into the home of Christopher Berog, 13, at Sto. Niño Village, Barangay Tunasan at around 9:30 a.m., according to Senior Supt. Erasto Lim Sanchez, city police chief.

Muntinlupa police identified the three as Filemon Flora, Ramon Doratan and Jesus Amorante.

When their disguise failed to fool the Berog family. The suspects changed their story and said they were operatives of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group ordered to confiscate loose firearms from the house.

Two of Berog's male relatives tried to hold off the men but the suspects, brandishing handguns, managed to snatch the boy anyway, Sanchez said.

But here's where the suspects made a vital mistake: they dropped a clutch bag containing a two-way radio, a copy of the kidnap plan and other documents, the police chief said.

"Somehow there was stupidity on their part," he said. "They were obviously rattled by the commotion."

Sanchez said the suspects first drove their victim to Cubao, Quezon City, then to Global City in Taguig, Metro Marikina and later to Marikina City in a white Toyota Revo.

In the meantime, the suspects began negotiations with the boy's grandfather and demanded the return of their clutch bag. If not, they said, they would kill the boy in 25 minutes.

Sanchez said the suspects initially wanted to have the handover in Biñan, Laguna but later agreed to return to Sto. Niño Village where three of them were arrested by police at around 1:30 p.m. *With Martin P. Marfil*

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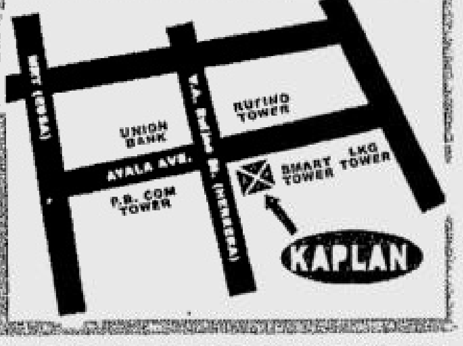

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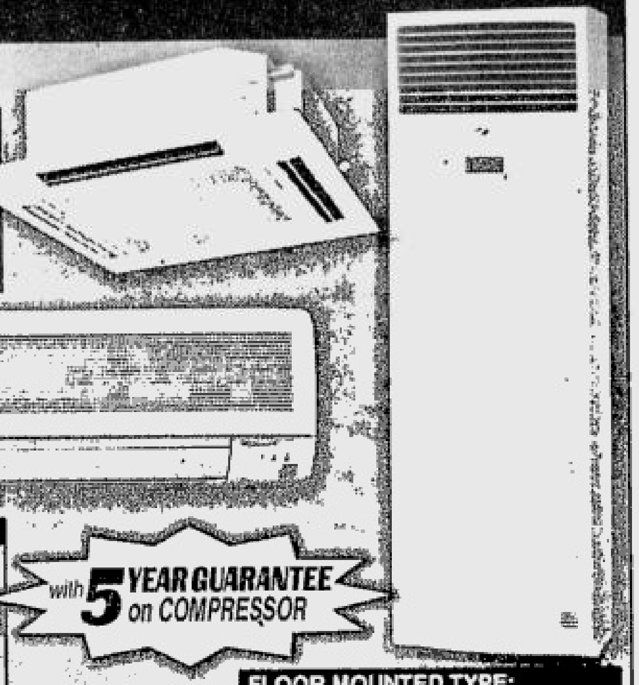

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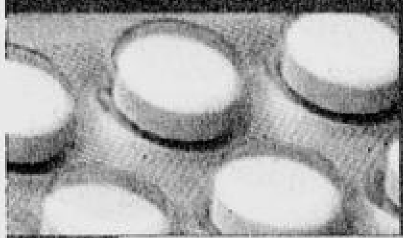

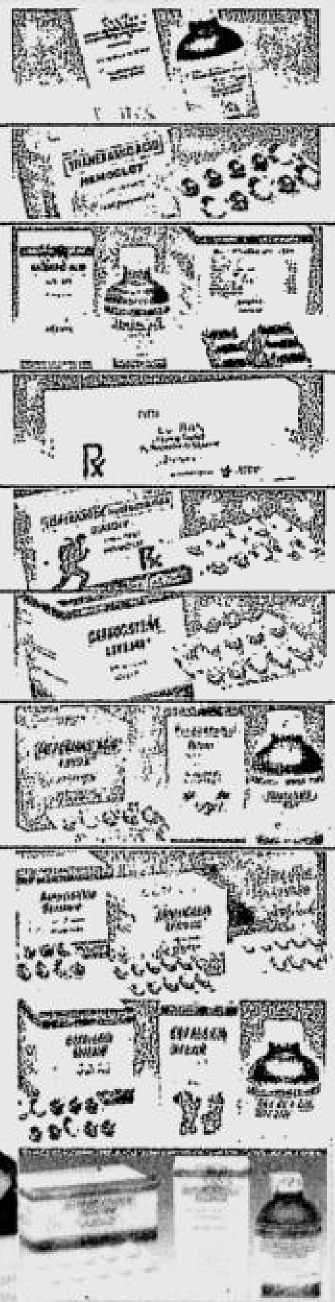

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Wanted: Volunteers for clean air

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ORDINARY citizens have been urged to sign up as volunteers for roadside enforcement teams that will apprehend smoke belchers and other road polluters.

The Concerned Citizens Against Pollution and Earth Day Network Philippines is calling on citizen volunteers to help enforce the Clean Air Act, or Republic Act 8749, particularly in the apprehension of smoke belchers.

Under the Clean Air Act, smoke-belching vehicles are to be subjected to emission testing by properly equipped enforcement teams from the Land Transportation Office or its deputized agents.

Bebet Gozun, Cocap president and executive director of Earth Day Network- Phil., said that while the government already has the equipment needed to implement the law, it lacks the manpower to enforce it.

She said the additional emission testing equipment has already been purchased under the Metro Air Program funded by the Asian Development Bank.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has six pieces of the equipment, called opacimeters, while 17 local Metro Manila governments have each been provided with one unit.

The Department of Transportation and Communication has 10 units. Bantay Kalikasan, the only non-government organization accredited to undertake roadside anti-smoke belching enforcement, has two opacimeters.

Each enforcement team is composed of seven to ten people. Only three of these have to be "enforcers" or "accredited enforcers." The rest of the team can be made up of volunteers.

In a meeting last Oct. 17, Gozun said the Cocap and the ADB-backed Partnership for Clean Air agreed to encourage other NGOs to volunteer to be part of the roadside enforcement teams.

"This will not only allow us to field more enforcement teams, the multisectoral teams will also increase transparency and reduce chances of corruption," Gozun said.

Citizens willing to join the enforcement teams may either do so as volunteers or as "accredited enforcers."

Those wishing to be accredited must undergo a three-day training course and pass an on-the-job exam.

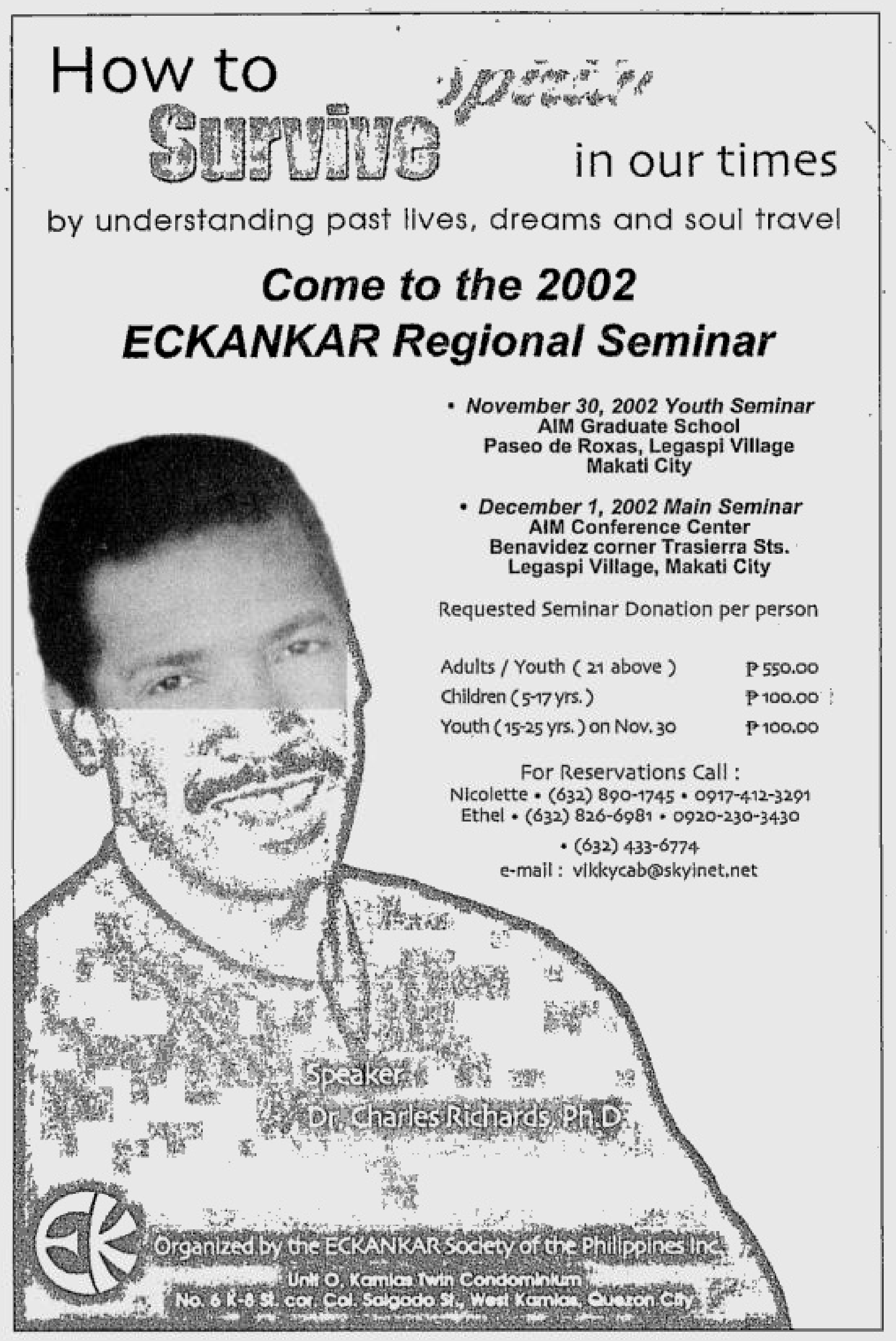
Those who just want to serve as volunteers without being accredited must still attend a half-day orientation course.

Gozun said joining the enforcement teams may be one way for citizens and NGOs to ensure that the Clean Air Act is implemented ahead of the January 2003 deadline.

The LTO decided to defer to January 2003 implementation of the rule requiring emission testing for all public utility vehicles prior to registration.

Green groups had lobbied for an earlier implementation of the emission testing provision in Metro Manila because of the high pollution levels there.

This would have been similar to the accelerated phase-out of leaded gasoline in Metro Manila nine months ahead of the schedule set by the Clean Air Act, Gozun said.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RP asks Iraq to heed UN resolution

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday urged Iraq to comply with a tough new resolution on arms inspections and disarmament enacted by the United Nations Security Council.

"The Philippines joins calls on Iraq to fully comply totally and unconditionally with this and all UN resolutions in ensuring the full and final disarmament of its weapons of mass destruction," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said in a statement.

"The resolution clearly states how Iraq must fulfill its obligations for compliance in order to end its isolation and ease the suffering of its people," Ople said.

The UN Security Council unanimously approved on Friday Resolution 1441 giving Iraqi President Saddam Hussein one last chance to disarm or face "serious consequences" that would certainly lead to war.

It gives Baghdad a week to accept the resolution that gives arms inspectors sweeping new rights and 30 days to submit a detailed massive declaration of its weapons of mass destruction.

The 15-0 vote on Resolution 1441, sponsored by the United States and Britain, was considered a victory for US President George W. Bush who had challenged the UN to disarm Iraq.

Ople welcomed the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1441, calling it "a reflection of our common commitment in pursuing all peaceful means to achieve our goals". *Norman Bordadora*

Ban on cargo airline sought

THE COURT of Appeals has been asked to stop aviation officials from approving the continued operation of a cargo airline, allegedly controlled by Japanese nationals, which has "illegally" been serving as the country's official flag carrier for the past six months.

Lawyer Jose G. Bruno of the Saludo, Agpalo, Fernandez, & Aquino law firm filed last Friday a petition with the CA to stop the Civil Aeronautics Board from acting on a motion by CLA Transport Inc. to extend its expired temporary operating certificate (TOC).

Bruno is a partner of Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. who earlier said he was "morally convinced" that Japanese nationals controlled the CLA in violation of the Anti-Dummy Law and of the constitutional provision limiting foreigners to a 40-percent stake in domestic corporations.

At a Sulo Hotel forum on Saturday, Saludo explained that Bruno's petition was in the nature of a "taxpayer's suit," arguing that any taxpayer can seek such legal remedies against perceived affronts to the national interest.

Named as respondents in the petition were CAB officials who had earlier granted the CLA a six-month TOC designating the firm as the official flag carrier moving cargo from the Philippines to Japan's Narita airport from Feb. 6 to Nov. 6 this year.

They include former Transportion Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and board members Adelberto F. Yap and Alberto Lim; CAB chair and Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza; and executive director Manuel San Jose. *Volt Contreras*

Velarde son gains House seat

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SON of evangelist Mike Velarde will soon sit in Congress as a representative for the party list group Buhay, as will 15 other party list representatives who are to be proclaimed this month.

Comelec Commissioner Mehol Sadain said the 16 candidates qualified for inclusion in the House lineup after the total party list vote was reduced when the Supreme Court disqualified many party list groups affiliated with major political parties.

Party list candidates must obtain two percent of the total party list vote to sit in the House as advocates for marginalized groups.

In a resolution promulgated on Nov. 6, the Comelec approved the election of Velarde's son Rene Velarde and Mariano Logarta of Buhay, a pro-life party list group endorsed by Velarde to the El Shaddai Catholic charismatic group that he heads. The group boasts some eight million members.

Renato Magtubo of the Partido Manggagawa also succeeded in obtaining a second House term as did Sanlakas' Jose Virgilio Bautista and Akbayan's Mario Agua.

Two more candidates—Maria Blanca Kim and Bernardo Lokin—will be joining Jose Emmanuel Villanueva, the son of Eddie Villanueva who heads still another charismatic group, Jesus Is Lord. They will be representing the Citizens Battle against Crime.

Others who are also to be proclaimed are Edgar Valdez and Sonny Rose Madamba of Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives; Benjamin Cruz and Eunila Chavez of Butil; Mujiv Hataman, Aba Dioscoro and a certain Granada of the Amin; Emerito Calderon of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed); and Orlando Soriano of National Confederation of Irrigators Association.

Congress resumes today its last session for the year, with the House of Representatives bent on passing three major pieces of legislation in just over a month's time.

House leaders said the proposed P804.2-billion national budget remains a top priority. Two other measures deemed urgent are the absentee voting bill and an amendment to the Clean Air Act. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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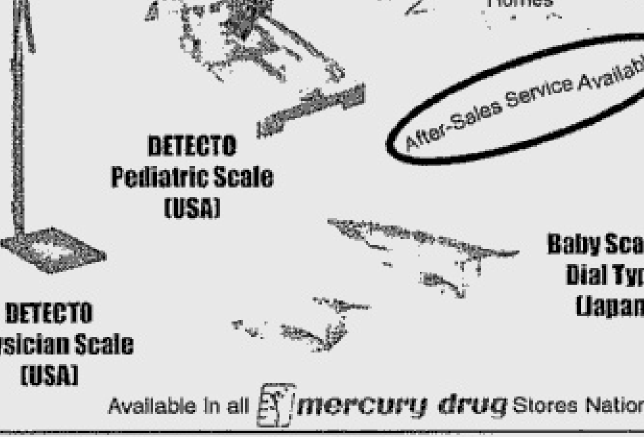
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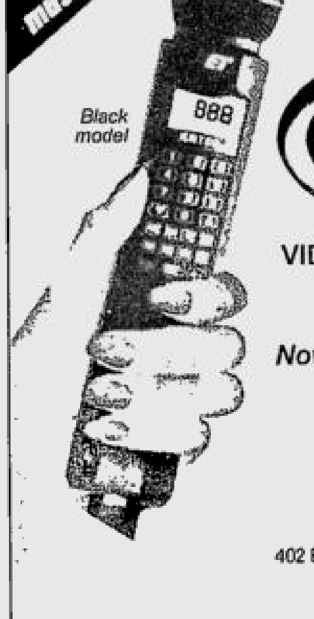

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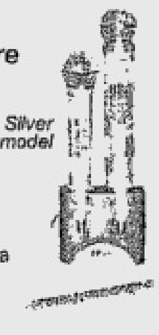

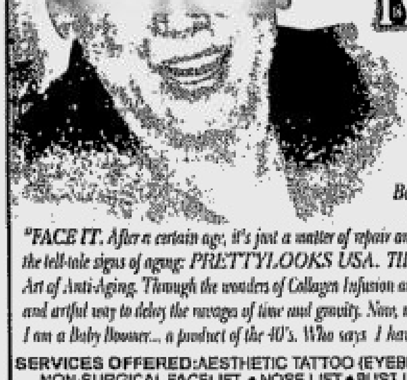

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2002

Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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Nuancing the MILF

EDITORIAL

AT A LATE-NIGHT get-together with reporters in Hanoi, Vietnam last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo played the nuance game. Discussing the possible blacklisting of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front by the United States, she carefully made a distinction between the "MILF organization itself" and "MILF elements."

She said that several months ago she told the US Embassy in Manila that some elements of the largest insurgency movement in the Philippines were indeed implicated in acts of terrorism, but the organization itself was not. Well, she did not exactly say so, categorically. She merely said—another tweak of nuance—that the MILF had denied any involvement in the terrorist attacks.

Her remarks were clearly meant to downplay the comments of presidential adviser for special concerns Norberto Gonzales, who had said the day before that the United States was thinking of including the MILF in its list of terrorist organizations. The US State Department had already done so with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, the Pentagon kidnap gang and, controversially, the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army. Now—according to Gonzales—it was prepared to add the MILF to the list.

But Gonzales' information was tangential at best—yet another twist of nuance. It was conveyed only, and deliberately, in passing, as part of a discussion Gonzales said he had with the MILF's military chief, Ibrahim Murad. He said he had told Murad about the US plan, because of alleged links between the Muslim separatist group and Jemaah Islamiah, the radical Islamic movement with ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The notice, he then claimed, moved Murad and other MILF leaders to agree to help the Philippine government. "They promised to help us arrest the suspected links of al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiah in the South," Gonzales said.

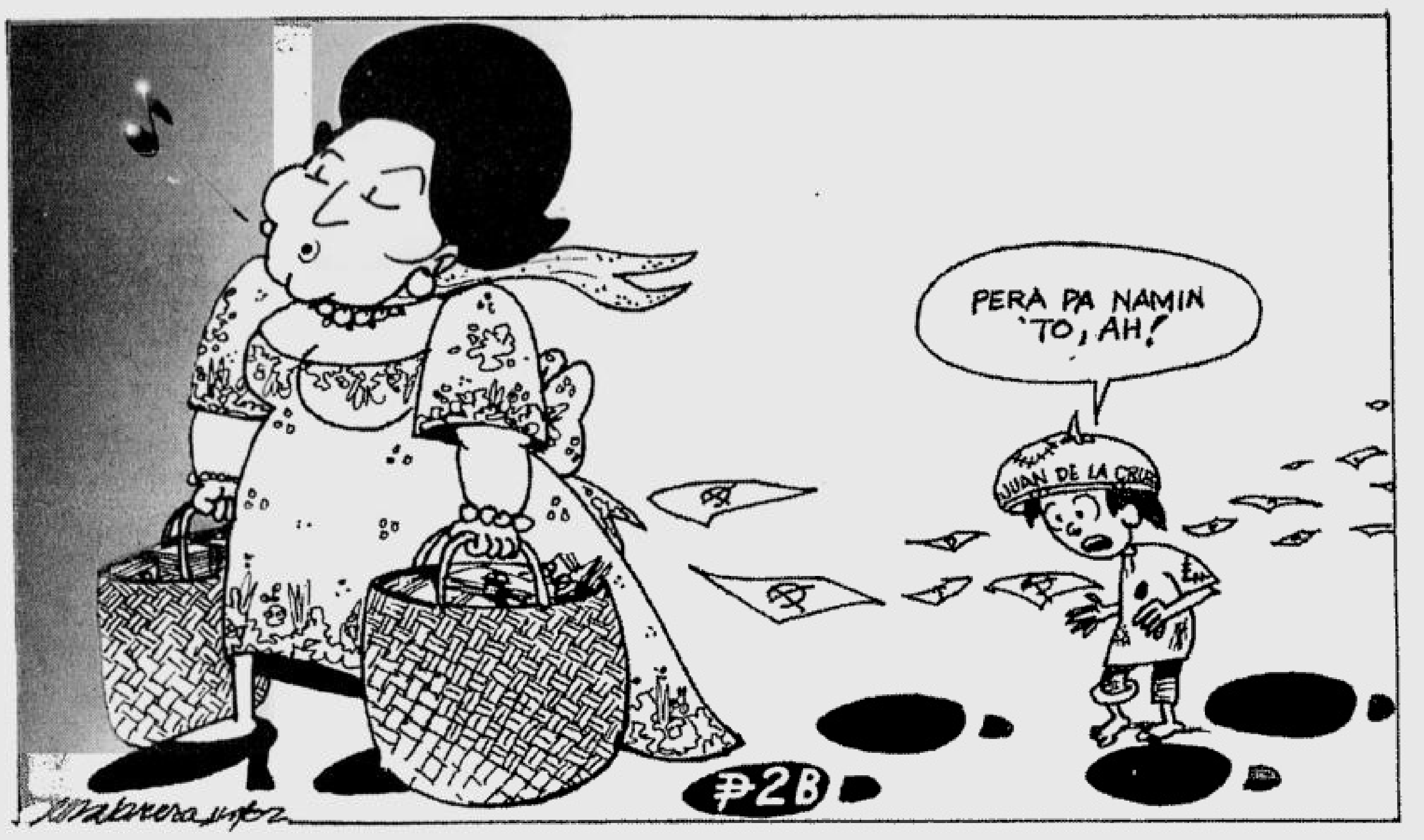
Gonzales, who serves as the President's "back-channel" negotiator with the MILF, is obviously playing yet another game: that of carrot and stick. Whether he played this game with the President's permission, using the alleged US plan (since described by the US Embassy as speculative) as the stick to beat Murad with, with the promise of cooperation as the carrot, is another question (or another game).

It is equally obvious, however, that both the military and the police are following another script, or playing yet another game. Police general Edgardo Aglipay said on Thursday he would welcome such a blacklisting of the MILF, for crassly practical reasons: "The US government would surely give us more support, training and logistics with this new development." That same day, retired general Eduardo Purificacion, spokesperson for the Armed Forces, struck a belligerent pose, pointedly saying that the Islamic holy season of Ramadan wouldn't stop the AFP from retaliating against the MILF.

Sadly for the peace process, however, the difference between the calibrated response of the Palace and the categorical statements of the security establishment is no mere matter of nuance.

There is no question that the MILF must be more forthcoming about its entanglement in the worldwide web of terror. A confidential military report obtained by the Associated Press last week revealed that one of the three main territorial cells JI operates used to be based in Camp Abubakar, the sprawling MILF base in Central Mindanao. When the AFP captured the camp in 2000, JI relocated its cell to Indonesia. And only the other Friday, bomb-making manuals and plans to attack sites frequented by foreign tourists were recovered from an MILF camp in Lanao del Sur. Even Gonzales describes the hundred or so al-Qaida and JI operatives in Mindanao as "former MILF members … enticed by terrorism."

These and other damning details do not give the MILF any leeway for nuance. If MILF leaders think they can finesse their offer last week to help arrest the hundred operatives, they will walk right into the military-police trap. In the past, MILF leaders had pledged to capture Abu Sayyaf bandits, or Pentagon gang kidnappers, or other criminals, to no effect. If they do not deliver now, they may hasten the end of the biggest nuance game of all: the on-again, off-again peace talks.



An airline with no planes and no pilots

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

STOP calling the President "Ate Glo" from now on. She is now officially "Lola Gloria."

Some people don't like being called "lolo" or "lola" because it makes them seem old. But being a grandparent has its beautiful and happy sides, the best of which is being adored by your grandchildren.

We sometimes hear older people complain about the difficulty of raising children and grandchildren. Yes it is, but the parents are amply compensated by the joys that children bring.

From the smile and gurgles that a baby greets you when you look at him or her in the crib, to the tight grip on your finger, to the wet kiss on your cheek, to the little gifts he or she brings home to you from school, to the home-made cards he or she painstakingly draws on Christmas or your birthday—all these tug at your heart, memories that you want to keep forever.

But the trouble with children is that they grow up to become adults. And that's the beauty of becoming a grandparent, when the grandchildren arrive to replace your once little children who have grown up to become parents themselves.

I am a "lolo" myself with two beautiful and bright granddaughters, the younger of whom is 6 years old, in Grade 1. When the older one was in kindergarten, a chore I looked forward to was to fetch her from school. Then we had so many stories and jokes to tell and songs to sing as I drove her home. The same way I looked forward to go to school to fetch my own children when they were little.

When my youngest daughter was in grade school at Maryknoll, I used to stand with my back against a wall waiting for her at dismissal time. With so many girls of almost the same age and size in the same tan-and-green uniform running here and there, it was hard to distinguish even one's own daughter from the rest. While I searched with my eyes for her in the throng of children, she would suddenly pop up beside me, give me a hug and a kiss, hand me a gift—a candy or a crayon drawing—then she would go get her heavy bag (why are the bags of little children so heavy these days?) and we would be on our way. With her now grown up and a practicing doctor, I still cherish these memories.

The same chore is now being done by my son and daughter-in-law and when my grandchildren grow up themselves, I am sure their parents will cherish these times.

I don't know whether the President will ever experience that joy—fetching Mikaela Gloria from grade school. She will probably have *yayas* and a vanful of bodyguards fetching and guarding her. And the President will probably be too busy with affairs of state and attending to callers to have much time for Mikaela Gloria.

My advice to her is to spend as much time as she can with Mikaela. Enjoy her as much as you can. Children grow up so fast. Before you know it, she would be grown up. There is no friend, no ally, more loving, trustful, loyal and honest as your own little children and grandchildren.

* * *

An airline that wants to be not only an official flag carrier but also the "exclusive cargo carrier of the Philippines." But there's something strange about this airline: it does not have a single plane.

This is the CLA Air Transport Inc. which Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. exposed as a "ghost airline." It has no plane, no pilots, no bylaws, and it is not operating. All it has is a "temporary permit to operate" (TOP) as a common carrier which expired last Nov. 6. Now it wants the Civil Aeronautics Board to extend this TOP.

Now the grant of this TOP is as strange as the ownership of CLA Air Transport.

CLA first applied for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) with CAB in late 1990 to operate an international all-cargo service between Japan and the Philippines. This first application was rejected because CLA was found to be majority-owned by Japanese. The Constitution limits the privilege to operate public utilities in the Philippines only to corporations at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos.

CLA refiled its application, saying it has cured the constitutional infirmity of ownership. Six months before the Ramos administration bowed out, the application was approved—a midnight approval. But the issuance of the TOP carried the stipulation: "subject to the ratification in the immediately succeeding meeting of the CAB Board." It was never ratified.

It was disapproved during the Estrada administration. But when President Macapagal-Arroyo took over, CAB executive director Manuel C. San Jose forwarded the Nov. 6, 2001 resolution to the Office of the President recommending the designation of CLA as the official international air carrier or "flag carrier" to Japan. Without, however, telling the President that it was never ratified by the whole CAB Board. On Dec. 19, 2001, the President approved the designation of CLA as flag carrier. As such, it will dislodge Philippine Airlines from its slot at the Narita airport.

On June 6, 2002, CAB again extended for another six months CLA's CPCN. That extension expired last Nov. 6. Last Oct. 15, 2002, CLA filed another urgent motion to extend its TOP.

But why ask for a CPCN and TOP when the airline has no planes and no pilots and is not operating? Perhaps because, said Saludo in Congress, the CPCN and TOP can be sold like the sugar quotas and timber licenses of old. Coincidentally, the president of CLA is logger Jose Pepito Alvarez.

Other members of the group are former officials of the CAB, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Air Transportation Office, and the Department of National Defense—all Ramos boys. Which probably explains why CLA was getting preferred treatment even if it has not been able to cure its ownership problem to make it conform to the Constitution.

Playing with fire

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

A JOURNALIST in Hong Kong rang me up to ask what I thought of the coup rumors that were flying around last week. He was the same fellow who asked me what I thought of the coup rumors some time ago implicating the so-called Freedom Force.

I said then that coup rumors were as plentiful in this country as text jokes, and were floated around seasonally by groups that had variously been ousted from Malacañang, had lost favor with Malacañang, or wanted to occupy Malacañang. They were meant more as propaganda than as realizable threat, the idea being to show that the President had become so unpopular—indeed so corrupt, which is the main excuse for coups—that people are literally up in arms against her.

But I said last Saturday that things had changed quite a bit since last we spoke. I still thought the possibility of a coup was remote, there was no armed group that seemed capable of carrying it out. And that was the least of the problems of anyone contemplating it, the most was how to legitimize it. The only seizure of power the people recognize at this point is the one they themselves carry out, which is people power. And even the last one had its share of problems. Unlike Edsa I, Edsa II was not universally acclaimed as a pure and resplendent act of direct sovereign will. Many American publications, chief of them Time, called it mob rule, whence the Erap forces drew a great deal of their ammunition.

There is no public restiveness that could erupt into another Edsa in the horizon. There is widespread unhappiness well enough about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's rule. You see that in surveys that consistently show her to be biting the dust behind other figures, however up or down her approval rating goes. But that is something the public can take care of through elections, not through the usurpation of the streets.

But there *was* a reason, I said, to be anxious about the coup rumors today. Not for what it means immediately but for what it means in the long term. More specifically, there was a reason to worry about the restiveness in the military Lisandro Abadia has pointed to. Maybe Abadia exaggerates the extent of the restiveness, maybe he exaggerates the lengths to which the restless are going to go, maybe he just exaggerates his own importance or his knowledge of what's going on in the camps. But he may also have caught a whiff of something that should start ringing the alarm bells among us. Namely, the exaggerated role the military is being made to play in the political affairs of this country.

GMA herself gave the military that new role, through her anti-terrorism campaign, or what passes for it, which is an uncritical adoption of George W. Bush's advocacy of it. An anti-terrorism campaign that has meant raising paranoid fears among the public of their country being threatened everywhere by a faceless enemy which can be met only by unleashing the full might of the military against it. Full might includes putting the generals in charge of the situation (which is happening right now with the National Security Council calling the shots on every aspect of "fighting terrorism"), the erosion of rights (which is happening right now with routine checkups, which condition the public to accept more draconian measures to fight terrorism), and making resources available to the generals for purposes only they know (which is happening right now with a bigger budget being assigned to Intelligence, whose activities are by nature beyond public scrutiny).

At the very least, what all that is doing is resurrecting the ideological underpinnings of coups, which is the idea that the military is the "praetorian guard" of the Republic. It has a right to act when the Republic is being threatened—such as by a corrupt leader, or one too weak to defend it from its enemies. Aided in no small way by a spate of action movies that depicts soldiers as the heroes of today, the generals have turned from martial law enforcers—and in many cases torturers—to democracy's freedom fighters. Aided still in no small way by American support for any leader, however despotic, who would adopt its antiterrorism crusade—Pervez Musharraf is the leading example—the military is free once again to entertain adventuristic thoughts.

The question is: How long are you going to keep a military you are "empowering" in this way in the barracks? The effects may not be immediate, but they will be felt in the long run.

Marcos himself ended up having to yield to the military he loosed that way, becoming as much hostage to its demands as it was hostage to his fears. And GMA is by no means Marcos, except in height. She does not control the military (Marcos had all the generals in his pocket, except Rocky Ileto, when he let them loose in the name of fighting a rising tide of terrorism, crime and anarchy, all rolled into one), she is not an elected President (Marcos was for two terms before he declared martial law), and she is not a man, which matters to an institution premised on machismo, though like Marcos she is determined to look more macho than anybody else.

I myself do not think she will last long enough to see the effects her unenlightened policies will have on her personally. But I am worried about the effects of those policies on the one who will come after her. She still has more than a year and half to go before the next elections, and at the rate she is going in her anti-terrorism campaign, we may not see a military that can be so easily controlled by the civilian authority at the end of it.

You wish you could say that people who play with fire are bound to burn themselves. But this is a case where people who play with fire are bound to burn their country. Badly.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Lowly coconut may help fight AIDS epidemic

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE VARIOUS countries in the Asean region, including our own, are upset over the recent travel advisories issued by a number of Western countries as well as Japan, against traveling in this part of the world in the wake of the savage bomb attack on Bali. The Asean countries are vigorously protesting that the advisories are hurting regional tourism, and have urged the Western countries to be more careful about their statements. The Asean countries hit the double standard, arguing that bombs have exploded in Spain and Ireland in the past, but no travel advisories have been issued on them.

The reason may have been furnished by Ambassador Francis Taylor, chief of the US State Department counter-terrorism division, who was in town for the two-day anti-terrorism and tourism recovery in Makati City, sponsored by the government. Taylor was quoted as saying, "Is the region committed (to the counter-terrorism campaign)? Absolutely, yes. Is the capacity (to fight terrorism) in place? No, not yet." In other words, there is the perception in the United States and doubtless in other Western countries that the Asean region can't handle terrorism as yet.

* * *

The way Taylor sounded, there is little chance that the United States and the European Union would lift their advisories at the moment. The Asean region will just have to live with that reality and take it in a positive light. For instance, as former PC Chief Ramon Montano pointed out in a recent article, our various intelligence agencies can seek better coordination among themselves in the anti-terrorism campaign, in order to instill confidence in the Philippines as a tourism destination.

Speaking of a positive light, in Phuket, Thailand, last week, a ranking Indonesian oil official quipped that this is the best time to come to Bali. He said that before the bomb blast there, the Indonesians played second fiddle to the foreign tourists, so that they seldom got to taste first-class lobsters. Now that foreign tourists are staying away from that island paradise the natives are finally enjoying those things.

* * *

While awaiting happier developments in tourism, we Pinoys can do our homework for "Visit the Philippines Year 2003." The scheduled grand opening of our state-of-the-art world-class Ninoy Aquino International Airport 3 on Dec. 15 is a step in the right direction—about time. And please, Naia 3 GM Gerry Cunanan (no relation), do something to professionalize the behavior of the airport personnel. At the Naia 1 last week, I came upon a group of men by the entrance to the immigration area, talking loudly and guffawing. Later I again ran into some personnel wearing uniforms of "Better Buildings Inc.," who were loudly telling stories to one another, causing the foreign passengers to stare at them. Not even in Asean can you see such behavior.

* * *

Our tourism authorities can also fix up the interior roads in our island paradise of Boracay, as Philippine Tourism Authority GM Nixon Cua has promised this column, as well as the road leading to Palawan's premier attraction, the Underground River, which is frightfully penitential in its current state. At the risk of nagging Rep. Imee Marcos, let's fix up the once-beautiful Paoay Church in Ilocos Norte, a Unesco Heritage Site that has now fallen into such a decrepit state.

* * *

One of the few people I recognized in the mammoth throng gathered for the canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei, in Rome earlier last month was former ambassador to Italy and former chief of the Philippine Coconut Authority, Jose Romero Jr. Romero and my husband and I found ourselves enthralled at how the. canonization crowds just sat there, seemingly wishing to prolong that auspicious event.

A week later I received a fax from him where he noted how the lowly coconut industry, often described as a sunset industry, may get a shot in the arm from two exciting developments. One is the discovery that monolaurin, which is derived from the lauric acid in coconut oil, can be used by the body to produce high levels of "anti-microbial activity." Romero stressed that this shouldn't be surprising, for after all, the ordinary, bacteria-killing toilet soap is produced from coconut oil. But the exciting thing, he said, is that clinical tests here and abroad have shown that this quality of monolaurin, when used as nutritional support to HIV-positive patients, has dramatically decreased their viral load, indicating its potential as an important supplement to AIDS therapy.

Perhaps one day, our coconut industry can help arrest the rampaging AIDS epidemic in the world, and in the process perhaps can also rescue from poverty the thousands of impoverished farmers and their families who have been victimized by those who manipulated for their own personal gain the coconut levy extracted from them in the Marcos regime.

* * *

The other good news, Romero pointed out, is the potential use of bio-diesel, a mixture of coconut oil extract and diesel fuel, which can be applied to implement the Clean Air Act. He stressed that use of bio-diesel can be a safety net for the country, in case the outbreak of war over Iraq jeopardizes world supply of petroleum products. Interestingly, at the recent anniversary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretary Heherson Alvarez, a principal author of the Clean Air Act in the Senate, plugged for the use of bio-diesel. Noting its increasing popularity in Malaysia, Indonesia and elsewhere in the region, he stressed that its use will eliminate up to 70 percent of the carbon dioxide in the air. He called for the launching of a nationwide campaign to convince owners and operators of public vehicles and ships to shift to natural gas and bio-diesel, away from fossil fuels. With the war staring us in the face, this is sound advice.

Pawns and mistaken identities

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

JUST as I was finishing the piece that should have appeared today, delayed already by the unannounced, unexpected intermittent blackouts that pounce upon us here as treacherously as death and thieves, my attention, heretofore focused on what I was writing, was caught by a statement of Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri who was guesting at that moment on ANC live on the segment hosted by Karen Bayhon.

"We don't want our soldiers to be pawns in a big chess game," he said. Every life was precious and should be valued and protected, he added in so many words. He also made reference to former SouthCom commander, Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, who apparently held a diametrically opposed view, a view where they who also serve as cannon fodder serve their country as well, as long as their lost souls add up to the ultimate prize of "winning the campaign" against the enemy.

"This is very bothersome," the good congressman, whose tribe I pray will increase a thousandfold, said.

Of course it is. So bothersome that I scrapped the finished column, changed gear and risked my sanity to beat the power shutdown and the absolute deadline due in an hour's time.

And as if on cue, leaping out of the crevices and clutter of images and words stacked in my mind was another TV interview, that of a military officer who served in Jolo recently but whose name escapes me (he had a forgettable face anyway), who was rather resentfully complaining that they did not have the "cooperation" of the people who, if I recall correctly, he, in effect, even accused of "coddling" the Abu Sayyaf.

Somehow, that interview struck me as bothersome too, coming as it did in the midst of reports of more killings of innocent civilians in the countryside during military operations going on at that time. Somehow he reminded me of the unforgettable class bully of my Grade 1 class who bitterly complained to our teacher that nobody wanted to play with him just because he compulsively conked everyone on the head.

In this war that I'm afraid nobody will win, our experience as observers with the biggest stakes in its resolution, go from the absolute reality of seeing spilled gore, mangled bones and torn flesh, to listening to official reports of so-called encounters and numbers of the dead and dying on both sides that border on the surreal.

As we tirelessly remind ourselves, there are always two sides—to a question, to the truth and as journalists, to stick to the two-source policy in our news stories. And for those of us reporting from the "war front," more often than not, the "other side" must be the ordinary folk, sometimes actual eyewitnesses, sometimes mere purveyor of accounts and various other storytellers.

But in a small town in a tiny island, sifting through the rumors and the stories to get at a fairly accurate account is not so difficult.

So both sides now:

The military reported that soldiers patrolling at dawn were ambushed by the Abu Sayyaf, resulting in one officer and several others killed with a number of wounded.

The townsfolk said an enlisted man who for reasons unknown, had been subjected to beating and even torture by his comrades during the night and had gone berserk, grabbed a rifle and shot them.

The military reported that they had chanced upon "a large number" of the bandit group under Raddulan Sahiron, and just at the precise moment they were positioning their howitzers, the Abu Sayyaf beat them to the draw with their own mortars. Several soldiers, heroes all, were killed with a number of the enemy also dead.

But a soldier reported that their own howitzer had misfired.

Most recently, the military reported that they had captured and arrested 27 Abu Sayyaf in Burok, Talipao.

The following day Jolo's Radyo ng Bayan dxSM reported that the 27 had been released because they turned out to be mere civilians. The military did not report the mistake.

Very bothersome: how is it possible for the military to actually include body counts of the Abu Sayyaf in their reports?

But very alarming is how every nameless human being who gets felled by their guns among the trees in Jolo is identified as Abu Sayyaf when they could not even tell from up front.

And so we ask the other side to that question: how many of those reported Abu Sayyaf killed were innocent civilians?

It is right for you to be bothered about soldiers being pawns in this big chess game, Congressman "Migs" (that's how Karen called you), even if they are combatants and expected to die in battle.

But this is a very dangerous, deadly game being played here on our island, too cruel to even liken the value of the lives of ordinary folk to the cost of a chesspiece.

The other night a spy plane hovered over Jolo until dawn. Nothing new to us because they had been robbing us of our sleep for the past several months, almost since the commencement of the Balikatan exercises.

Will those spy planes, Chinook helicopters and other stateside military gewgaws decimate the Abu Sayyaf? Maybe, maybe not.

But our military don't really need those against a small band of bandits they keep on decimating in their imagination but keep on confronting them in their lucid moments.

What they do sorely need is that one thing that has been buried under—like hope in Pandora's box—by half-truths, outright lies, deception and propaganda, so much so that it has gone out of sight.

Something as simple as plain credibility.

* * *

Comments to nm19@my.smart.com.ph

Threat of war can make peace more probable

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

EVER since he won the US presidency while losing the popular vote in 2000, George W. Bush has been underestimated, even reviled, by those who don't like him. The sneakily denigrating nickname "Dubya" (which parodies his down-home Texas style of saying his middle initial, W) was early hung on him by snobbish American media pundits. .

But Bush did not gloat over the stunning electoral defeat suffered by the opposition Democrats in last Tuesday's midterm elections, in which the Republican Party took control of both the US Senate and the House. This time, the slogan "It's the economy stupid!" did not win the day, even in the face of Bush's continued hawkish stance on Iraq and a faltering US economy. The other victim of a world transformed by 9/11 seems to be the saying that all politics is local. For now, all politics is global.

Bush was also poised and statesmanlike when he applauded the unanimous vote of the UN Security Council last week in favor of a US-sponsored resolution to disarm Iraq. During the last few months, numerous people have been misreading the winds of world politics. There has been much blustery talk about the supposed "growing political isolation of the US" and a bashing of Bush's "war mongering" on Iraq. Much ill-deserved praise has been heaped on countries like Germany, Russia, China and France for their supposed devotion to peace and diplomacy on the issue, even though the strongest anti-war demos were in democratic America. The truth is, those four countries have big business, military and trade interests in Iraq, which they are trying to protect. But the unanimous vote last week demanding that Iraq give up its weapons of mass destruction, with "serious consequences" guaranteed if it doesn't cooperate with arms inspectors, proved that the Security Council is still a community of self-interests that can be made to see reason, not an unreasoning communion of saints.

By sticking to his guns and threatening to back up with force the 10 years worth of United Nations resolutions that Iraq has wantonly violated, Bush has made an important point. Peace and security for the world's nations cannot be secured by peaceful and diplomatic means alone, unless they are backed up with a demonstrable will to fight for that peace and security. Without the option of war, there would only be the wishful talking of diplomats and the wishful chanting of activists, to stand between humanity and the madmen of the world.

Bush has shown that multilateralism is an impotent force unless one or more nations firmly exercise leadership in the direction that the principles of freedom and the common good demand of them. The threat of war has increased the probability of peace. Even the doctrine of preemptive self-defense has a validity in our dangerous new world. Madmen wield global holocaust in a couple thousand liters of anthrax and smallpox or a half-kilogram of plutonium. The time difference between an imminent threat and a horrific Armageddon is measured in the minutes of a missile's trajectory, not the months of a debating society. So if it takes a cowboy from Crawford, Texas to knock heads together at the United Nations to see the sense in a strident self-defense, backed up with aircraft carriers and Hellfire missiles, so be it. But the doctrine of pre-emptive self-defense does require us to judge the sanity and trustworthiness of whoever desires to apply it. Only moral relativists cannot see that.

By proving that the United States and Britain would be willing to resort to force to defend against Saddam's biological, chemical or nuclear attack, France, Russia and China realized that they would only be marginalized if and when regime change does occur in Iraq. And it will occur sooner or later, because like Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini and Mao Zedong before him, there is simply no room in the world's future for the Iraqi dictator or his ilk.

The lesson for the Philippines has to do with the war on terrorism. It is wholly fallacious to think that just because al-Qaida is basically a movement to establish fundamentalist Islamic states, alliances can't be struck with communist rebels and rogue states like Iraq and North Korea, or that democratic Muslim countries won't be attacked. After what happened in Bali, states like Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, even with large Muslim populations, cannot rest easy. Nothing threatens the ambitions of terrorists for Taliban-like caliphates, and communists for dictatorships of the proletariat, more than global capitalism and liberal democracy. And it is these twin survivors of the 20th century's greatest ideological battles that are the world's best chance for a prosperous and peaceful future.

Despite appearances however, neither true capitalism nor liberal democracy exists in the Philippines yet. One serious breach is on the matter of separation of church and state, which will gain supreme relevance and importance if the divide between religions and civilizations in the world widens into a crevasse of war. No Muslim would want to live in a fundamentalist Catholic country like the Philippines, any more than any Catholic would want to live in a fundamentalist Islamic state. Unless we can successfully extricate the government from the clutches of our own religious fundamentalism and disestablish Catholicism as the state religion, in deed as well as in word, we shall never uproot the source of Muslim discontent and distrust, on which fertile soils, terrorism and totalitarianism seek to plant their seeds of death and destruction.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Return to sender

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

EVERY DAY, except Sunday, a page is reserved in the INQUIRER for letters to the editor. Through this medium, the public can air their views or reactions to the issues of the day.

On the average, the INQUIRER receives 20 to 25 letters daily, of which 60 percent are sent by mail or facsimile and the rest by e-mail. Only letters that pass the newspaper's criteria of relevance, clarity and brevity are published in the Letters' section.

Some readers have complained to this column that they feel frustrated if the letters they worked hard to write do not see print, more so when they see that certain letter writers seem to be "regular customers" of the section.

A reader, whose identity I shall keep under wraps to protect his privacy, expressed disappointment with the return of the letters he earlier sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER's e-mail address <feedback@inquirer.com.ph>.

He wrote: "Twice my letter to the editor were returned to me. Both used your e-mail address. Can you tell me the reason why? I must accept the fact that my letters to the editor probably did not meet the INQUIRER's standards. However, I want to know why it was necessary for it to be returned to me.

"Isn't the normal practice is to simply NOT print the letter, and the sender therefore accepts that his/her letter did not see print because it was unworthy of print? Why throw the letter back at me as an irate editor would do to an errant intern? I am disappointed you did not show even a smidgen of pride-saving gesture to the undersigned."

No attachments

I do not blame the reader for feeling bad about the return of his letters. It's the same situation most writers find themselves in when they receive rejection slips together with the articles they submitted for publication bearing correction marks in red ink.

When I checked with the newspaper's IT specialists on the complaint, I learned that the reader's letters were returned because they were sent as attachments to his e-mail. For the benefit of the computer technology-impaired, this means he sent an e-mail to the INQUIRER informing it of his intention to submit a letter to the editor and the letter is written in a separate document or attachment.

Whenever the newspaper's Internet system receives an e-mail of that nature, it automatically returns it with the following message: "Sorry, but we do not accept e-mail with attachments. Please re-send your message as part of the e-mail body."

The INQUIRER put this self-generating mechanism in place because it wants to prevent the entry of viruses into its computer network. A virus is a computer program that is designed to impair or destroy the operation of a computer system to which it has been introduced.

Remember the infamous "I Love You" virus that a group of Filipino computer experts supposedly inserted two years ago in the Internet system that destroyed the files of the computers that had the misfortune of being caught in its path?

Studies have shown that most viruses seep into the computer systems of their victims by way of attachments to innocent-looking e-mail messages. The moment the unwary computer user opens the attachment, the virus breaks out from its shell and destroys all the data and programs contained in the computer.

Anti-virus

While it is true that the entry of viruses in computers may be prevented with the use of "serums," or anti-virus programs that check for and remove computer viruses, the newspaper believes it cannot be relied upon to completely block the viruses.

The anti-virus programs become useless every time another good-for-nothing computer nerd comes up with another virus that is stronger or more destructive than the one for which an anti-virus program has been devised. It is a frustrating catch-me-if-you-can affair with computer viruses.

If one document-eating virus is able to squeeze itself into the INQUIRER's database of news reports, articles and photos, the damage it can cause the entire network would be incalculable and, perhaps, irreparable.

So rather than risk some virus eluding the anti-virus program, the newspaper's IT specialists believe the part of discretion is to prevent their entry through the "attachment to e-mail" process. Thus, the moment the computer system senses that an e-mail containing an attachment has entered the server, a mechanism is triggered that immediately rejects it and returns it to its sender.

In addition to security concerns, the prohibition on attachments is aimed at preventing the overload of the INQUIRER's server facilities. By computer standards, the ordinary e-mail is "light" so it can be easily transmitted and stored. The moment it is accompanied by an attachment, it becomes "heavy" and therefore its transmission takes a little longer and, when received by the server, it occupies bigger space.

A heavy transmission load slows down the entry of other e-mail messages to the network. When the load of the server exceeds its allowable capacity, chances of the whole system crashing are high.

Advice

Word of advice to readers who want to write to the editor by e-mail: type your letter in the body of your e-mail message as if you are writing an ordinary paper. Its acceptance by the computer system is guaranteed.

But whether or not the letter will satisfy the INQUIRER's criteria for publication is a different story. Much as the Opinion editor would want to accommodate all letters received, he does not have the time to re-write letters with numerous grammatical errors.

In terms of length, the rule of thumb the newspaper observes for e-mailed letters is it should not exceed 3,000 characters including spaces. The editorial assistant in charge of reviewing the letters does not do a word count to check if a letter is within the limits. One quick look at the letter and she knows whether or not it has breached the cut-off point. The errant letter goes straight to the wastebasket.

One final note. The IT specialists would like to advise those who send press releases to e-mail address <feedback@inquirer.com.ph> that their requests for publication will not be endorsed to the editorial staff if they are sent to this address. Those materials should be sent to the addresses the INQUIRER announced in its earlier notices if they want them to be considered for publication.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Media restraint in reporting crime

I'D like to express my views about a recent story posted on Nov. 1 titled, "Terrorist plot uncovered in cellular phone call." I gathered from the story that the case has not been solved yet. The authorities merely intercepted these messages and that made them put their units on high alert. That is highly commendable work!

It's important for us citizens to know that the law enforcement agencies are doing their job well. It's the responsibility of both the media and the government agencies to inform the people about such threats. On the other hand, reporting the strategies of intelligence-gathering negates all positive intentions because that does not contribute to solving the problem. The bad guys are still out there! The lives of intelligence "assets" are being put in harm's way. The kind of information that such news reports conveys helps these lawless elements conceal their identities. And still a lot of editorials criticize the authorities for not solving the crimes that plague our society. Are we surprised at all that there are just so many bad guys who continue to elude the police?

We all know that our resources to solve crimes are inadequate. Naming suspects does not solve a crime. Let's help our police do their job by not keeping them too busy facing the cameras or giving too many interviews to the media. We'd like to know the names of policemen who solve the case. But let's be patient while they silently perform their difficult jobs.

This is an appeal to our sense of nationalism.

—J.R. EXEQUIEL T. PINEDA,
M.D./Ph.D., candidate,
Medical Scientist Training
Program, Albert Einstein College
of Medicine, Bronx,
New York 10461

Consolidate our intelligence agencies?

THE PROPOSAL to consolidate the country's intelligence agencies into one superbody like the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is sound and should be pursued by the proper authorities. Moreover, they can go one step further by setting up a separate counter-intelligence organization like Britain's MI6 for better and speedier information verification.

One thing, though. There should be a resident ombudsman to ensure that funds will go where they are intended. This arrangement will not only eliminate graft but will also prevent unscrupulous operatives from using the state's facilities for personal aggrandizement.

—ERICK SAN JUAN,
1st e-Bank Tower,
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Outraged with decision

WE of the Concerned Women of the Philippines (CWP), as one of the impeachment complainants in the People vs Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco case, are deeply disappointed and outraged by the decision of the House committee on justice last Oct. 23 that the impeachment complaint was insufficient in substance—by a vote of 36 to 16, with three sustaining and six not voting.

Where is justice when, after reading the 200-page complaint and listening to the reasons presented by the seven representatives for their "sufficiency in substance" vote, some representatives could still not feel or believe, in their minds, the seriousness and grave consequence of their votes?

We wish to take this opportunity to salute and laud our honorable representatives in Congress who continue to stand up for their principles with conviction, like Representatives Monico Puentevella, Oscar Rodriguez, Arthur Defensor, Magtanggol Gunigundo, Belma Cabilao, Douglas Cagas and Lawrence Wacnang, who clearly explained their votes with much conviction and sincerity.

May all honorable members of Congress likewise rise beyond personal and parochial interests, serving the nation with honesty and pride, as an example and inspiration for other leaders of our country, especially the youth. May this be a challenge to our congressmen to uphold justice, truth and the welfare of our people when voting on such vital and critical issues such as the current impeachment complaint against Tancangco. Let us strengthen our pillars of democracy like the Comelec. Let us weed out the bad from the good, the wrong from the right. We can be a grateful nation to such "heroes" as these!

—ESPERANZA B. PATERNO,
EVELYN L. KILAYKO, Concerned
Women of the Philippines

A question many are asking

I WOULD like to pose an obvious question which everybody else seems inured to ask: "What is happening to our country?"

Ours is a democracy, but it doesn't seem to work. We are a Christian country, and yet we do not practice Christian values in our lives.

Our moviemakers have gone wild, if the publicly shown pornographic movie, "Prosti," is any indication. But did our censors lift a finger?

Our young women are increasingly lured into prostitution, but we look the other way—if we don't offer them to tourists!

Graft and corruption in all the three branches of the government is at an all-time high, but we see the mole, not the mountain.

Crime is rampant and criminals mock the law, but the authorities are helpless. We wait for criminals to strike, arrest some and then release them for inadequate evidence.

Illegal drugs are gradually tightening the noose around our already impoverished people's neck, but we arrest only the victims-turned-pushers. Where are the drug lords? Are these sacred cows going to run the country in no time?

We seem to have economic planners whose expertise is pump-priming the economy endlessly. How about manufacturing what we need, from cement plants to needles, instead of importing them? No, we would rather prematurely open the country to free trade!

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has been adept in defending the peso against currency speculators, but look who is prematurely minting increasingly worthless Philippine coins? Be consistent, guys!

And where are our billions of gold mined over the last two decades? Surely, with the meticulous accounting, their sales can offset twice the value of our present foreign debt. The Bangko Sentral governor can do a monumental favor to the people so dearly loved by Jose Rizal and Marcelo H. del Pilar, by merely cracking the whip.

The Abu Sayyaf? Professional kidnappers? Terrorist bombers? Why can't these termites be stopped? The question that could be asked instead could well be: "When will the President free herself from remaining 'hostage' to her mediocre-performing Edsa II benefactors in the military and the PNP?"

Is the real question her mediocrity? Is it her cordon sanitaire? Or is it simply poor professional management as chief executive of the land, as well as a lack of political will?

What is happening to our country? What is happening to the administration of the daughter of an illustrious Filipino leader?

While the President acts on the writing on the wall, let's pray for her and her administration for the people's sake!

—VICENTE C. FALCULAN,
acting dean, New Millennium Institute
of Technology, Magsaysay, Carmen,
Davao del Norte

More info needed on signboards

SALES agents and advertisers of product firms give free signboards to retail stores in the localities where they are assigned. The signboards give the names of the stores below, or above, the product brand. For example: "San Mig Light, Bebeng's Store"; "Ginebra San Miguel, Since 1884, Edna's Eatery"; "Island Portland Cement, De Castro Hardware." There is no mention in the signboard of the place where the retail store is located.

It will surely be very helpful if such signboards will also give the store's location—such as the name of the barangay or the town—so that out-of-towners and tourists passing by will know what places they are visiting. Calling the product firms!

—FERNANDO TOBIAS,
3750 J. Zamora St., Sto. Angel Sur,
Sta. Cruz, Laguna

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

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1. Booking Class: B Class of Service: Economy
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3. Travel Restriction :
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Arabs say Iraq to accept UN resolution

CAIRO—Iraq was expected to accept the UN resolution to disarm, Egypt's foreign minister said early Sunday. But if Baghdad fails to follow through, US officials said a Pentagon plan called for more than 200,000 troops to invade Iraq.

Iraq's foreign minister said no decision had been taken but several other Arab diplomats at a meeting of the Arab League here said that in effect Iraq had already accepted the resolution.

"I think we can expect a positive position by the Iraqis," said the Egyptian minister, Ahmed Maher.

The New York Times reported late Saturday on its website that Bush had approved a Pentagon plan for invading Iraq, should the new UN arms inspection effort fail.

Several White House officials reached Saturday declined to comment on the report, but defense officials said on condition of anonymity that the plan calls for a land, sea and air force of 200,000 to 250,000 troops, at least twice the number initially considered.

The United States and Britain have threatened military action against Iraq if Baghdad does not fully comply with the UN resolution.

"No decision has been taken," Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told reporters at the Arab League meeting.

On Sunday, Iraq's state-controlled media carried no news about the resolution, nor even the usual vitriolic editorials blaming the United States for pushing the Security Council into a tough stance. Saddam himself has remained silent on Friday's unanimously adopted resolution.

At the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, Sabri tried to put the best face on the UN blueprint for renewed arms inspection. He said that in the diplomatic haggling that led to passage of the resolution, the international community succeeded in diluting US plans for aggression on Iraq.

In Italy, hundreds of thousands of people marched through Florence Saturday in a peaceful protest against US policy in Iraq as well as globalization, the subject of a forum being held in the city. Police said about 450,000 from all over Europe took part but organizers estimated the crowd at more than 800,000.

In Washington, President George W. Bush applauded the 15-0 vote Friday, saying the resolution "presents the Iraqi regime with a test, a final test."

"This was an important week for our country and for the world," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Bush said Iraq must now cooperate with UN inspectors and dismantle its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities.

The Pentagon already is moving forces into position to ensure that it will be capable of launching swift strikes into Iraq, should Bush decide on war. *AP*

10 Bali plotters still in country, say Indon cops

BALI—Indonesian police said on Sunday they believed around 10 people who carried out the Bali bomb attack were still in the country, adding that a man who had admitted his involvement in the blasts faced the death penalty.

Deputy national police spokesperson Edward Aritonang also said a man being questioned for selling explosive materials to Amrozi, the Indonesian who has confessed, was now a suspect for selling the products, but this was not linked to the Bali probe.

"Police are hunting for people believed connected to the bombings. They number around 10 and were the field operators," Aritonang said, adding that while they could have fled the country, police were convinced they were still in Indonesia.

Aritonang made no comment on who might have ordered the three bomb blasts on Oct. 12 or who planned the attacks. No one has claimed responsibility for the Bali atrocity, which killed more than 180 people, mainly foreign holidaymakers, but suspicion has focused on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and Jemaah Islamiah, a militant Southeast Asian Muslim group.

Indonesia's defense minister said on Friday that Amrozi was a member of Jemaah Islamiah and that al-Qaida was behind the blasts.

Aritonang said Amrozi faced the death penalty under tough new anti-terror measures brought in by the world's most populous Muslim nation in the aftermath of the Bali attacks.

Asked about the owner of a chemical shop who had sold Amrozi large amounts of explosives material, Aritonang named him as Silvester Tendean. He said Tendean had been declared a suspect in East Java in relation to permits to sell explosives materials.

Tendean is being questioned in Bali as a witness in the bomb investigation, police have said.

Amrozi owned a minivan that was used as a car-bomb to rip through popular nightclubs along the famous Kuta Beach. His arrest last week marked the first big breakthrough in the probe.

Aritonang said Amrozi, aged 40 and who relatives say fixed motorbikes and made antennas for hand phones at his home village in East Java province, had given police a wealth of information.

"From the investigation of Amrozi, police have been able to reconstruct an outline of how the Kuta bombings took place, such as the equipment that was used, the explosives, the places used to plan the bombings and then where the people who carried it out consolidated afterwards," Aritonang said.

On Saturday, Indonesian policemen raided Amrozi's village of Tenggulun, seizing a range of items. Police searched a workshop Amrozi owned, an Islamic boarding school and other homes there. *Reuters*

KL to tighten security laws

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia has announced plans to tighten its security laws after a judge ordered the release of an Islamic militant suspect, who was immediately rearrested.

Rais Yatim, an official in the Prime Minister's Department, told the New Sunday Times that the government would amend the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial, to curb judicial scrutiny of the reasons for detention.

"To me this is a dangerous trend. We have to be quick to redress this inadequacy, we cannot allow a laissez faire attitude in security matters," he said.

The detainee, 45-year-old Nasharuddin Nasir, is accused of being a member of Jemaah Islamiah, which is suspected of involvement in last month's bomb blasts in Bali.

He was arrested under the ISA on April 17 along with 14 others, but a High Court judge ordered his release Friday on the grounds that there was no evidence against him.

Nasharuddin was freed Saturday from the Kamunting Detention Center but was immediately rearrested and served with a new two-year detention order—a move which outraged human rights activists, who regularly accuse the government of using the ISA to stifle political opposition. *AFP*

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Sniper tells cops he's triggerman

WASHINGTON—The 17-year-old sniper suspect arrested in connection with a shooting spree that killed 10 people and wounded four in the Washington area has told police he was the triggerman in several of those shootings, The Washington Post reported on Sunday.

John Lee Malvo, who was arrested on Oct. 24 along with John Allen Muhammad, 41, has admitted to shooting Linda Franklin, an FBI analyst gunned down in suburban Virginia, the newspaper reported, quoting an unnamed law enforcement source.

Franklin, 47, was shot and killed on Oct. 14 in the parking lot of a Home Depot hardware store while loading her car with goods she had just purchased.

Law enforcement sources refused to give details of other shootings Malvo allegedly described, the Post reported.

Malvo was interviewed by law enforcement officials after being transferred to Fairfax County, Virginia, near Washington. *Reuters*

HOLIEST MONTH
A crescent moon rises over a mosque's minaret in the Kuwait desert during Ramadan, the ninth and holiest month of the Islamic calendar. REUTERS

Islamic Jihad leader shot dead by Army

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army shot and killed one of Israel's most wanted men from the militant group Islamic Jihad in a gunfight in the West Bank Saturday, security officials said. The group retaliated with a roadside bombing near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, killing an Israeli soldier.

Iyad Sawalha, a man Israel has accused of orchestrating attacks that left 31 Israelis dead, was killed after trading fire with troops from his hide-out in the West Bank town of Jenin, Israeli officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sawalha, a top Islamic Jihad leader in the northern West Bank, threw grenades and fired at troops after holing up behind a revolving wall in the hide-out leading to an underground cave, the officials said. Two soldiers were lightly injured.

In retaliation, Islamic Jihad said its militants set off a bomb on a road later Saturday near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, killing an Israeli soldier. In a statement sent to The Associated Press in Lebanon, the group said the attack was its first retaliation for the death of Sawalha.

The Army said 1st. Class Sgt. Medin Grifat, 23, was killed while on a foot patrol near the Netzarim settlement when the roadside bomb detonated. The explosion also moderately wounded another officer.

In the Jenin operation, Israeli forces conducting a search of the city's casbah identified the house as Sawalha's hideout after finding papers on the doorstep that appeared to belong to his wife, Mariam, the officials said.

Next-door neighbor Soha Ekmel, a witness, said she heard Sawalha's wife scream for him to come out, telling him that the Israeli forces had threatened to kill her if he did not. The Army declined to comment on that report.

The Army said Sawalha was responsible for two suicide attacks—a bus bombing in June that killed 17 Israelis, and another last month when two teenagers drove a car laden with explosives into a bus in northern Israel, leaving 14 Israelis dead. *AP*

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WorldBriefs

Failed to pay fine

BOGOTA—Colombia's inspector general said a former drug lord freed from prison earlier this week could be sent back for failing to pay a fine, the nation's leading daily newspaper reported Saturday. Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, once the leader of one of the world's most powerful drug cartels, was released from prison Thursday for good behavior, despite government efforts to keep him behind bars. He ran the Cali cartel with his brother Miguel and was freed after serving seven years of a 15-year trafficking sentence. His brother remains in prison after being convicted of trying to bribe a judge. The two once controlled 80 percent of the world's cocaine trade. But Inspector General Edgardo Mayo said the freed drug boss could be thrown back in prison for failing to pay a $26-million court fine, according to a report in Saturday's El Tiempo newspaper. *AP*

100 bushfires

SYDNEY—Light rain and cooler weather helped thousands of Australian firefighters battle more than 100 bushfires on Sunday, but strong winds whipped up blazes. The New South Wales Rural Fire Service said 101 fires were burning in the state, Australia's most populous, with 30 of them out of control by nightfall. Five homes and several industrial properties were destroyed on Saturday when a fire swept through parts of Mittagong, southwest of Sydney, but no homes had been lost on Sunday. By Sunday evening light rain was beginning to fall around Sydney and, coupled with cooler temperatures, helped firefighters gain control of many fires. *Reuters*

Obscenity issue

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong magazine which published a naked picture of an actress allegedly taken when she was kidnapped has appealed against the decision to classify the edition as obscene, a report said Sunday. The Obscene Articles Tribunal, which had ruled the picture splashed across the front page of East Week magazine last month was obscene, said it would hear the appeal in the near future. "The review means the tribunal will have to examine the article again and decide whether to maintain the original classification or reclassify it," said a spokesperson for the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority cited by the Sunday Morning Post.

Publisher Emperor Group has since closed East Week following widespread public outrage, particularly from Hong Kong's film sector, after the magazine published the picture of the nude and distressed actress, allegedly taken when she was abducted 12 years ago. *AFP*

California storms

SAN FRANCISCO—A trio of powerful storms that trundled through California tapered off, leaving behind extensive damage and sweeping two people out to sea. More than 37,000 utility customers remained without power Saturday evening. Since the storms hit Wednesday night, 1.8 million customers lost power, the companies said. Clean-up crews in the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Sonora spent Saturday slogging through a muddy flash flood that rushed though city streets overnight. No injuries were reported. *AP*

Ne Win's kin

RANGOON—Burma's Supreme Court will Tuesday hear an appeal against death sentences handed to the son-in-law and three grandsons of former dictator Ne Win for plotting to overthrow the junta, legal sources said. Military intelligence spokesperson Brig. Gen. I Than Tun said last week that the Supreme Court had accepted the submissions lodged by defense lawyers and that the hearing would be held in the second week of November. "The appeals submitted within the specified period were duly accepted and hearings are to begin soon," he said. Legal sources said Sunday that the Supreme Court would hear the case on Tuesday. *AFP*

Maoist threat

KATMANDU—Nepal deployed soldiers and police around the kingdom Sunday ahead of a three-day strike called by Maoist rebels, who were blamed for the killing of a top security official at the US Embassy here. Police reported a series of attacks on government sites around the capital Katmandu ahead of the strike to begin Monday, which the Maoists have called to protest King Gyanendra's dismissal of the elected government last month. "In view of the possible damage caused by these terrorists, the government has strengthened all its security postings," Home Minister Dharma Bahadur Thapa said. *AFP*

Nigeria to shield stoning convicts

LAGOS—Nigeria's foreign minister promised on Saturday that the government would block Islamic courts from carrying out stonings of women sentenced to death for sex outside marriage.

Seeking to repair its international image amid growing protests, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dubem Onyia said the government "will not fold its arms while the rights of its citizens are abused."

He was referring to judgments by Shariah courts in northern states condemning at least four people to death by stoning for adultery or rape. The sentences have sparked international outrage and threats by beauty queens to boycott the Miss World pageant, which Nigeria is hosting on Dec. 7.

Although he did not say how, Onyia stressed Nigeria would use "its constitutional powers to thwart any negative ruling, which is deemed injurious to its people."

This, "even though we support the independence of our judiciary, and judicial processes," Onyia added.

"We strongly believe in the rule of law and shall allow the normal channel of law to prevail," he added. "We restate that no person shall be condemned to death by stoning in Nigeria."

An Islamic court in northern Nigeria condemned Amina Lawal, a 31-year-old single mother, for having sex outside marriage. A high court rejected Lawal's appeal in August. She has gone into hiding while awaiting a second appeal by a higher Islamic court.

A similar conviction against Safiya Husseini was overturned by an Islamic court in March.

"The Nigerian government shall protect their rights," Onyia said referring to Husseini and Lawal.

Ahmadu Ibrahim, 35, and Fatima Usman, 32, confessed former lovers, also are awaiting an appeal on a ruling by a Shariah court in August sentencing them to death for adultery.

Additionally, Surimu Mohammed Baranda was condemned to stoning for the alleged rape of a 9-year-old girl. Baranda's family says he is mentally ill and has appealed for clemency.

At least one person has been executed by a Shariah court so far, a man hanged in northern Katsina state in January for stabbing to death a woman and her children. *AP*

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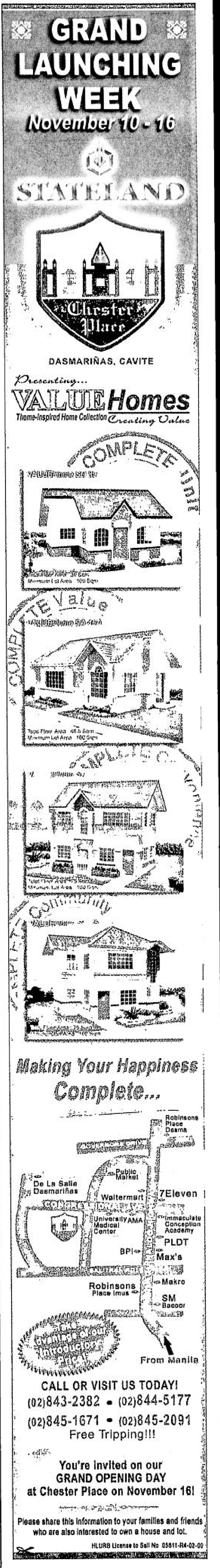
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Chavit says perjury rap continued harassment

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said the perjury case filed by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) for his alleged failure to declare ownership of a yacht is part of the "continuous harassment" he is receiving from his critics.

Sisa, in a five-page complaint filed before the Ombudsman, accused Singson of perjury for not declaring the $1.29-million MV Escalera as part of his personal wealth in 1999.

Singson said the perjury charge was "baseless" but he did not elaborate.

He said Sisa and its chair, lawyer Estelita Cordero, are attacking him because of orders from ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"Cordero, the chair of Sisa, admitted in public that she (used to be) a lawyer of Erap. That is the link to all of these charges," Singson claimed.

Singson said Cordero, during a speaking engagement at the University of the Philippines that they both attended, admitted that she rendered legal services for Estrada.

But Cordero said Singson should not deviate from the issue and answer the charges.

"He cannot say anything except that line. He should answer the issue directly," Cordero told the INQUIRER.

She admitted that he notarized some documents for Estrada in the past, but she said she felt there was nothing wrong with what she did.

Sisa's complaint cited records presented by the lawyers of Estrada in his plunder trial, which showed that Singson acquired the yacht in Hong Kong in 1999.

Estrada's lawyers confronted Singson with the yacht's registration and insurance papers during his cross-examination.

The documents now form part of defense exhibits purportedly meant to undermine the credibility of Singson as a star witness against his erstwhile friend Estrada.*Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 ex-NPAs, 3 of them women, slain in Pampanga clash with soldiers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Four communist rebels, three of them women, were killed in an encounter with government troopers in Sta. Ana, Pampanga on Saturday night, a report from the Philippine Army's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) in Tarlac City said.

The clash between the members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) and the combined forces of the Army's 69th Infantry Brigade and 46th Military Intelligence Command in Barangay San Roque came after an attack by the New People's Army on the RHB, its rival faction, the Nolcom report said.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Nolcom chief, said the NPA's southeastern guerilla front, led by a certain Ka Billy Dario, had closed in on the RHB rebels at 8 p.m. and began exchanging fire before Army soldiers arrived for a command operation in the same village.

Garcia said the clash between the two communist armed groups was a result of the NPA's retaliation for the RHB's assassination of NPA members in eastern Pampanga, especially in Mexico town.

The NPA and the RHB, he said, had engaged in clashes after NPA assassins killed Bartolome Quizon, also known as Ka Jobay, a top military cadre of the RHB in December 2000.

Reports said the NPA rebels withdrew when the RHB rebels, the armed wing of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, exchanged fire with Army soldiers.

Garcia said the gunfight lasted for 30 minutes in the rice fields of Barangay San Roque.

He identified three of the slain RHB rebels as Liza Mansana-Garcia, Remedios Dantes and Princess Vinuya.

Army reports said no soldier or resident was wounded in the clash.

The firefight erupted late Saturday near San Roque in Pampanga, after government forces encountered a unit of the Revolutionary People's Army, regional army chief Major General Alberto Braganza said.

Authorities recovered four high-powered firearms from the rebels.

The RHB is a breakaway faction of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines. The group was recently labelled a terrorist organization by the US and European governments. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk with AFP*

JOHNNY VILLENA

SORSOGON SUNSET

The sun casts a bright, ghost-like reflection on the water in Dankalan Beach in Bulusan, Sorsogon, one of the many unexplored places in the country that offer not only tourism, but also less polluted air.

Cebu businessman linked to trading of explosives charged

By Suzzane B. Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Department of Justice has filed charges against a Cebuano businessman accused of brokering the sale of a ton of explosives, part of which ended in the hands of men responsible for the 2000 Rizal Day bombing that resulted in the death of 22 people.

Antonio Reyes of Barangay Tangke, Talisay City was formally charged before the Cebu Regional Trial Court on Thursday with the sale and illegal possession of explosives.

Bail was recommended at P200,000. But Reyes was nowhere to be found in the village where he was supposed to reside.

SPO4 Vicente Abellari of the Talisay Police said they found three persons named Antonio Reyes living in Tangke but they were not the one the police was looking for. One is an 18-year-old construction worker and the other a security guard. The third Reyes is a fisherman and had reportedly left the barangay sometime in 1998.

But Chief Insp. Ritchie Posadas, the deputy chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group based in Cebu City, said he could just be in Cebu or Metro Manila and he could easily be arrested once the court issues a warrant for his arrest.

According to the DOJ, Reyes was allegedly engaged in supplying ammonium nitrate to suspected terrorists in making bombs and dynamites.

Reyes supplied two shipments of explosives intended for Singapore and General Santos City. Some of the explosives that were sold in General Santos was brought to Manila and was used in the December 2000 bombing, the DOJ said.

The DOJ had earlier filed the same charges against Malaysians Faiz Bin Abu Bakar Bafana and Riduan Isamudin alias Hambali.

The Philippine National Police Intelligence Group (PNP-IG) charged all three accused in the Rizal Day bombing.

Chief Supt. Jaime Karingal, chief of the PNP-IG, said Reyes served as middleman between the supplier of the explosives to suspected Indonesian terrorist Fathur Al Ghozi.

Karingal said over the radio yesterday that Reyes has connection with Al Ghozi based on their investigation.

Karingal said they also found out that the explosives supplied to Al Ghozi came from Bataan and was supposedly sold to a mining company.

The information filed in court accused Reyes of brokering the sale of some 50 boxes of explosives weighing more than one ton, six rolls of detonating cord and three boxes of blasting caps sometime in November 2000.

The PNP-IG recovered a cache of explosives weighing some 1.2 tons sometime in January in General Santos City.

Information from Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, an Indonesian was instrumental in the discovery of the explosives. *With a report by Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Abaca gives Iligan hope after steel

ILIGAN CITY—The local government of Iligan wants to convert almost half of the city's land area into the production of abaca.

Officials said the move was aimed at making Iligan one of the country's major producers of abaca.

The city's economy was still reeling from the shutdown of the National Steel Corporation, its top source of revenue.

Mayor Franklin Quijano said the city's over-emphasis on industrialization could be one reason why it was suffering and that the establishment of abaca plantations was seen as a cure.

"This move is set to shift the imbalance of industrialization and agriculture in Iligan's economic map", Quijano said.

Quijano, in a recent visit to Barangay Rogongon here, the site of the abaca production project said he wants the area known as a world class abaca production area.

"Now is the time we focus on Iligan's potential as an agricultural city", he said.

The shift to abaca production would cost about P30 million.

The total land area, which the city wants to develop, measures 35,565 hectares.

The Land Bank of the Philippines has pledged to help in the project under it Shared Financing Program.

Rogelio Englatiera, chair of the Technology and Organizational Services Committee of the Cooperative Development and Livelihood Project , said the abaca production was conceptualized in 1999 yet.

But it was only recently that the project came into life.

"As far as the agricultural development of the city is concerned, this is one of the flagship projects of Iligan", he said. *Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army execs say Marines transfer not coup-tied

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Military officials here yesterday said the transfer of the 2nd Marine Brigade from Basilan to Tawi-tawi on Sunday has nothing to do with the rumor about a brewing coup d' etat.

Southern Command chief Lt. General Narciso Abaya said the transfer of the Marines "is a product of a deliberate plan of Task the Force Comet" in the wake of persistent reports that Abu Sayyaf gunmen were trying to seek refuge in Tawi-Tawi.

Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the Marines would also help in the efforts to recover kidnap victim Alvin Chua.

Chua, a Filipino-Chinese businessman who buys live marine products for export, was abducted by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits on October 20.

"We got no indication that there is a coup plot in this part of the archipelago," Lucero said.

The transfer has surprised junior officers belonging to the said Marine Brigade.

A junior officer said the transfer came as they were just starting with a development project in Upper Mahayahay and in the former Abu Sayyaf lair of Mount Mahadji.

"We earlier thought that the transfer would remain a rumor. We never thought that it would materialize," the officer who requested anonymity said.

The transfer occurred days after Abaya went to visit major military field units in Mindanao.

Lucero initially said the visit was "plain troop checking" but later said Abaya was just interested to find out the development of the operation against terrorism.

"He was tasked by President Arroyo to lecture on doctrinal approach to improve fight against terror," he said.

Lucero issued assurance that despite persistent coup rumors, military forces under the Southcom remain loyal to President Macapagal-Arroyo. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Air Force men start fund-raising project for sick children at PGH

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A recycled soft drink can and the attendance to an air show will go a long way to help sick children at the Philippine General Hospital's pediatric wards for the indigent.

Capt. Ben Hur Gomez, president of the Omni Aviation Corp., said he helped mobilize people and companies for these fund-raising projects after receiving an appeal from Dr. Philip Cruz, chief of the PGH's pediatric wards.

Gomez, who has 38 years of flying experience and a former vice president for operations of the Philippine Airlines, remembered an important thing from Cruz's letter: That the wards handle about 8,000 children a month and these badly need help.

His employees at Omni rallied long-time partners to help for the sick children.

The San Miguel Corp., Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., Tropical Asia Parachute Club, the Clark Centennial Committee and the Clark Development Corp. agreed to put together the funds to support the children, Gomez told the INQUIRER.

"We decided to make them (PGH pediatric wards) the beneficiary because the children are our future. We want to see them get better medical care, especially the indigents," he said.

"Why should poverty be a hindrance to better health care?" he asked.

In the "Save a Can, Save the Earth, Save a Child" project, Omni is collecting soft drink cans for recycling. The money earned from selling the soft drink cans to SMC and Coca-Cola goes to the hospital.

Omni is putting up a recycling bin in its complex here where people can deposit their cans.

"We encourage everyone, even children, to save those aluminum cans so we can help the needy children," Gomez said.

He said they are preparing another project, the International Skydiving Festival and Fly-In, to help the children. The festival, scheduled in May next year, will be the first such event to be held in the country by the British Parachute Association.

At least 50 percent of the ticket and gate proceeds of the festival would go to the PGH, Gomez said.

"The more guests we attract, the more funds we could raise," he said.

The festival's aerial events will be held from May 3 to 6 in 2003, but other ground events will be held until May 10, he said.

Aside from the British Parachute Association members as special guests, the 2002 world skydiving champion "50-Women Formation Team" is also gracing the festival.

Gomez said this is not a one-time effort for the sick children.

"The recycling program is long-running and Omni Aviation conducts regular events not only to bring in tourists and put Clark and Pampanga back into the tourism map. We conduct events to keep people aware about what we have in the Philippines. We can have fun, enjoy, learn, save a life and save the planet while going about our enjoyment," he said.

Soldiers hold exercises in Batangas power plant

BATANGAS CITY—After persistent reports that communist and terrorist groups would sabotage power plants, and captured terrorists' documents revealed that the most probable target is the Korean Electric Power Corporation (Kepco) in Barangay Ilijan, soldiers and police forces went on an exercise to protect the plant.

Agents posing as fully armed terrorists performed the first attack on the Special Forces' detachment near the power plant and kidnapped a Korean manager to enter the power plant.

Within minutes, the combined forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Luzon Unified Command, the Philippine National Police Regional Office IV-A, and Kepco-Ilijan Corporation's security came to the rescue, eliminated the enemy and even rescued the Korean hostage unharmed.

Unbelievingly fast?

That was just an exercise that the AFP and the PNP staged on Friday at the Kepco grounds to enhance the security of the newest natural-gas power plant in this city that is scheduled for inauguration by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 14.

The exercise was for the security of the power plant and is part of government efforts to protect all vital installations in the region.

Kepco-Ilijan is a project of the Korean Electric Power Corp. of South Korea, and is expected to save the Philippines an estimated equivalent of 1.6 million barrels of oil and its value in foreign exchange annually.

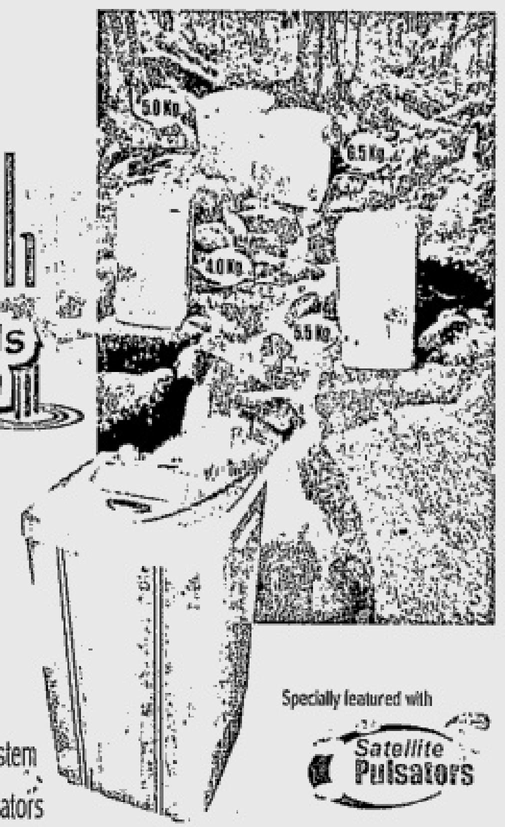
The power plant has the capacity of 1,200 megawatts generated through a combined cycle process fueled by natural gas from the Malampaya gas field in northern Palawan and piped to the Shell Refinery in Tabangao, Batangas.

Natural gas is recognized as the cheapest among fossil fuels.

Electricity generated by the power plant is seen to boost the power requirements of the Luzon Grid.

The power plant started its operation last June.

Present during the exercise were AFP Solcom chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, 2nd Infantry Division commanding general Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, PNP Region IV Director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., exercise director Brig. Gen. Dante Bonifacio, Kepco-Ilijan Vice President Won-Kyung Sung, Batangas provincial police director Sr. Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, Batangas City police chief Supt. Restito Hernandez, media persons and Kepco officials. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Slay suspects claim cops tortured them

BUTUAN CITY—Two suspects in the slaying of an elderly couple in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte claimed that policemen there have tortured them into owning the crime.

Rodel Olorbida and his younger brother Robert said at least seven of the 20 members of the Nasipit police took turn in beating them during interrogation after they were arrested on Tuesday.

The allegation has apparently dealt another blow against Supt. Ricky Nerbes, Agusan del Norte police director, who has been under fire from a lawyers' group in Caraga because of allegations that arrested suspects were being tortured. ***Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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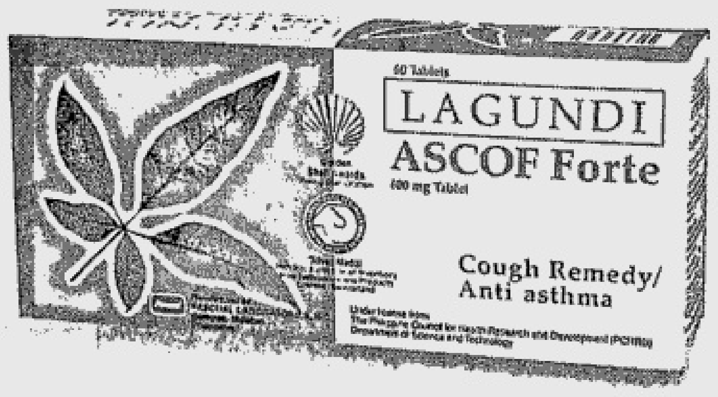

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- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws	Schedule of Monthly Draws
First	November 29, 2002
Second	January 10, 2003
Third	January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws	Deadline for Submission of Entries
First	November 15, 2002
Second	December 26, 2002
Third	January 15, 2003

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North Metro	- PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro	- PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro	- PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog	- PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol	- PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona, Camarines Sur
Cebu/Bohol	- PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas	- PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte	- PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao	- PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao	- PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Cotilipan, Davao City

- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail.
- Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom. To claim prize(s), winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and at least one valid ID.
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
- All employees of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, all Shellane distributors, the advertising agency including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3510 Series of 2002

ROUNDUP

Rebels strike

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels raided Barangay Congan in Glan, Sarangani on Friday evening and took with them six .30 caliber Garand rifles from militiamen manning an outpost there. Reports reaching the Sarangani police command said the attack was so swift that members of the Civilian Volunteers' Organization manning the outpost failed to fire a single shot. Supt. Willie Dangane, Sarangani police director, told reporters that the CVOs would be investigated to determine if collusion took place. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Inmates bolt jail

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Four inmates bolted the Cotabato jail Saturday and were being hunted Sunday. Supt. Jose Calimutan, provincial jail warden, said guards discovered the jailbreak around 2:30 a.m. Calimutan identified the escapees as Saidon Dilandan, Tony Lidasan, Ton-Ton Saligan, all charged with illegal possession of firearms, and Amir Mangara who was charged with car theft. He said the escapees cut off the two iron bars of their detention cell's window and fled. ***Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Used trucks' help cited

THE ASSOCIATION of Logistics Providers of the Philippines (ALPP) hailed the move of the Department of Trade and Industry and Board of Investments to allow the continued importation of used trucks to serve small- and medium-scale enterprises and local government units. In a statement, ALPP head Martin Noval said the move was government's way of recognizing the help that used light trucks has given to boost small- and medium-scale enterprises and the country's economy in general.

Ecozone trade fair

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Economic Zone Authority-Baguio Economic Zone will hold an annual trade fair from Nov. 15 to Dec. 31 to showcase export-quality products of the country's economic zones. Manufacturers from various Peza ecozones will offer signature dresses, shoes, socks, watches and bags for sale at the Peza Compound in Barangay Loakan here. Selected exporters of silver jewelry and furniture and producers of ornamental plants will also participate in the fair. ***PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Death for murder

CABANATUAN CITY—A judge on Tuesday sentenced two men to death for the 1998 murder of two men in this city. Judge Feliciano Buenaventura, presiding judge of the court for heinous crimes in the province, imposed the death penalty on Roger Semacio and Renato Martin for the murder of Leovino Cardona and his son-in-law Romano Espino. Buenaventura said the suspects broke into the victims' house on Nov. 1, 1998 and fired at them while they were sleeping. Wounded in the attack was Gloria Cardona, Leovino's wife. Court records indicate that personal grudge prompted the attack on the Cardona couple and Espino. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

3 killed in collision

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Three men died after their motorcycle collided with a passenger jeep in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, on Thursday. Police identified the victims as Valentino Cabrera, Maximo Viloria and Rolando Cabanayan. Reports said Cabrera, a graduating student of the Central Luzon State University, was taking Viloria and Cabanayan home aboard a borrowed motorcycle when the accident took place.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hijacked truck

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—Armed men hijacked a truck loaded with at least P1 million worth of construction materials on Wednesday dawn in Barangay Caypihan here. Police said the truck driver and two helpers were sleeping in the truck parked along the Cagayan Valley Road here when the armed men woke them up and at gunpoint took their vehicle. The goods, owned by the Patching Marketing of Mandaluyong City, were intended for the firm's customers in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Drug pushers nabbed

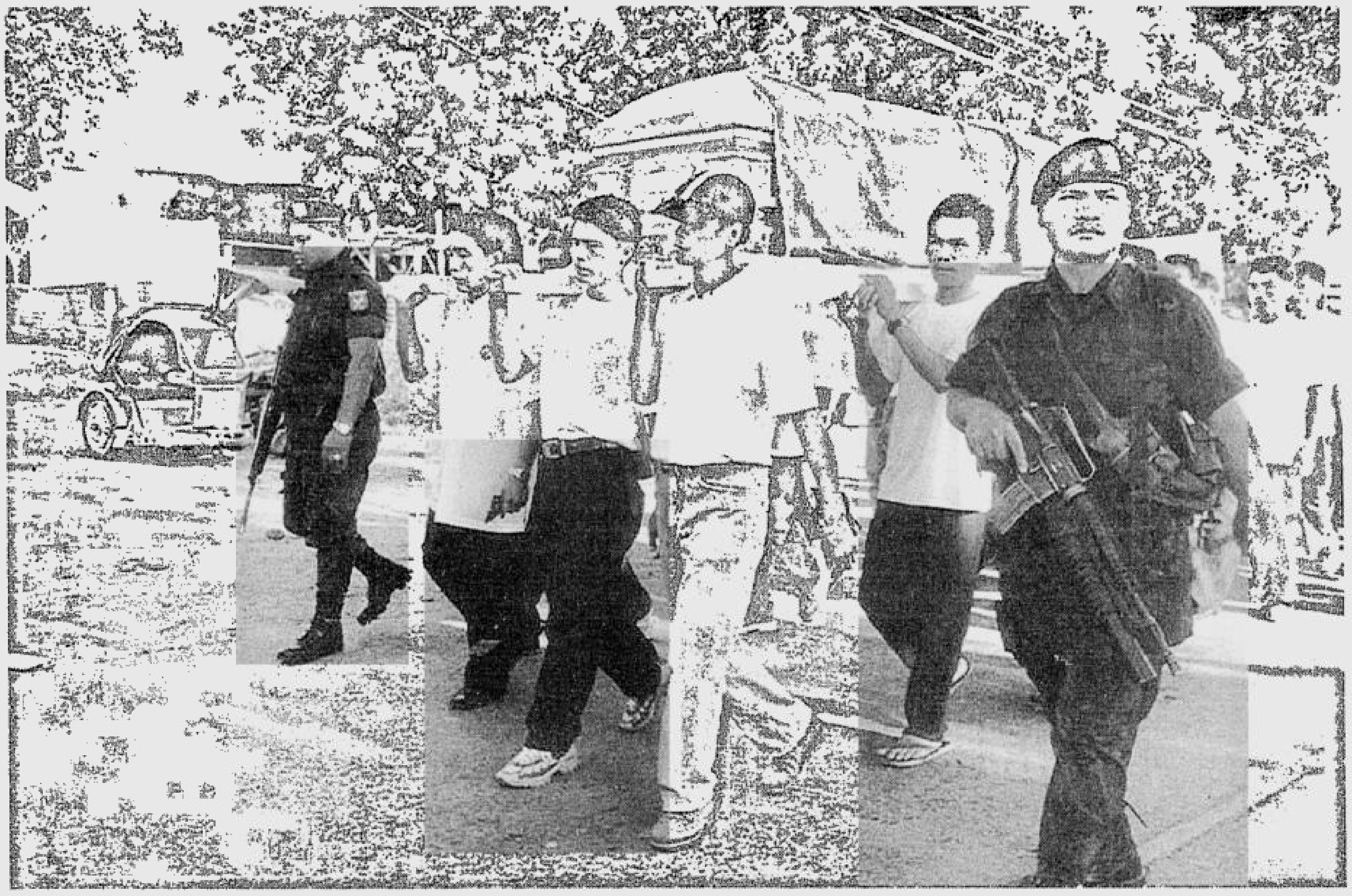
CALAMBA CITY—Police arrested two fugitives and drug pushers last week in Barangay Canlubang. Arrested were Gregorio Legaspi, 38, resident of Barangay Palo Alto, and Crisanto Donque, 24, of Sitio Paltok, Barangay Canlubang, during an operation. Legaspi had been facing cases of illegal possession of firearms and violation of the illegal drugs law in court. Police recovered 17 pieces of small plastic sachets containing an undetermined amount of shabu, .45-cal. pistol and ammunition, a .38-cal. pistol and various shabu paraphernalia.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Waste disposal

SILANG, Cavite—Mayor Ruben Maglangsakay said the municipal government has asked Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to extend the five-day deadline the DENR official gave him in order to find a solution to the town's garbage problem. The five-day period started on Wednesday. The garbage collected in this town has been temporarily dumped in a nearby town. The fund intended for the garbage and waste disposal problem in this town is allegedly missing.
Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dad suspended

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—For not attending the city council sessions for several months, a councilor here was suspended for 90 days without pay. Councilor Mario Garcia attended only two regular sessions of the council since he was elected in May last year, according to Vice Mayor Eligio Lagman, the council's presiding officer. The council acted on a motion filed by Councilor Ramon Cabral Jr. Lagman said the council's decision was based on its internal rules of procedures stating that "any member who has committed four consecutive absences is automatically suspended." Garcia could not be reached for comment. His name was mentioned as among the suspected jueteng financiers in the province. But Supt. Leo Marzan, Pampanga police intelligence chief, said Garcia's name had been removed from the list of suspected jueteng financiers after he reportedly "ceased his operation" last year.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk



TIGHT SECURITY

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The body of Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra is brought to its burial site under tight security. Benwaren was assassinated in a church during a wedding ceremony in Calauan, Laguna.

Slain officer's pa appeals to DOJ after court junks case vs PMA execs

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—The father of the late 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez, the Philippine Military Academy graduate who was found dead in her barracks in February last year, has turned to the Department of Justice for help after a Rizal court dismissed the cases filed against Jessica's superiors in August.

"The DOJ is our last hope. We are hoping that Secretary (Hernando) Perez would look into this to give justice to my daughter," said Efren Chavez.

Jessica, 23, and a member of the PMA Sanghaya Class of 2000, was found dead in her barracks in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, on Feb. 9, 2001. She succumbed to a bullet wound in the chest.

Chavez filed a 10-page appeal before the DOJ on Oct. 23, after prosecutors in Rizal province denied his motion for reconsideration on Oct. 2.

On Aug. 14, Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Marianito Santos of Rizal dismissed the criminal complaint against Maj. Ramon Dizon and Maj. Ricardo Visaya, Capt. Domingo Campos and Private Mary Arvie Juanitas for lack of merit.

Chavez said a complaint for "obstruction of apprehension and prosecution of criminal offenders" were filed against the Army officials after they ordered that Jessica's room be cleaned up immediately after she was found dead. Among those taken from the room were bullets, slugs, shells and the shirt worn by Jessica when she died. The items were placed in a plastic bag, court records showed.

Santos, in his resolution, said the respondents could not be accused of meddling with the investigation because they did it to safeguard or preserve the evidence. Chavez, however, disagreed with Santos.

"What evidence were safeguarded or preserved when the respondents cleaned up the scene of the crime and removed vital evidence (from it)?" Chavez asked.

On Aug. 17, the General Court Marshall acquitted Dizon, Visaya and Campos of charges of violation of Section 96 (conduct unbecoming of an officer and gentleman) and Section 97 (acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline) of the Articles of War.

"I cannot control my tears when the chair of the General Court Marshall announced the body's decision. I thought we had very strong evidence because investigators from the Judge Advocate General's Office even recommended that a trial be held," Chavez said.

In his appeal to the DOJ, Chavez cited a June 18, 2001 investigation report signed by Supt. Bayani Reyes and a May 29, 2001 letter of Brig. Gen. Lamberto Sillona, the chief inspector of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Chavez said the documents cited the alleged failure of Dizon to secure the crime scene and preserve the evidence on Jessica's death. These also indicated that Dizon ordered that Jessica's sleeping quarters be cleaned up before police investigators arrived.

"The respondents, being Philippine Army officers, should know or ought to know that they must preserve, protect and safeguard the scene of the crime, especially the vital evidence," Chavez said in his appeal.

He said he still believes that his daughter was murdered because she uncovered an anomaly while serving as a platoon leader and signal officer of the 191st Military Police Battalion in Fort Bonifacio.

Agents hunt head of fake civil service certificates

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Intelligence agents on Monday began the hunt for a leader of a syndicate behind the sales of fake civil service eligibility certificates and government positions in Central Luzon.

The alert for the arrest of Bella Mitra was raised after she victimized at least 19 government employees in Pampanga and Bulacan, according to lawyer Anicia Marasigan-De Lima, Civil Service Commission director in Central Luzon.

De Lima said Mitra represented herself as an employee of the CSC national office.

"Her operations involved the procurement of career service professional and sub-professional eligibility (certificates) without the need for examinations and the peddling of various plantilla positions in government agencies," De Lima said.

Mitra's victims in Apalit and Guagua in Pampanga and Baliuag in Bulacan paid her between P2,500 and P7,000 in exchange for eligibility certificates or plantilla positions.

Mitra gave them only photocopies of the certificates, leaving them with assurances that original records would follow later.

The CSC national office also required at least 60 employees of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to answer allegations involving fake eligibility certificates.

De Lima said the order to comment, which was sent out by registered mail last week, would determine if the SBMA workers would face charges of dishonesty, falsification of public documents, grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial of government service.

If found guilty, the SBMA workers would be dismissed from work, disqualified from government service and banned from taking the eligibility test.

Antonio Inocentes, SBMA deputy administrator for administration, ordered a separate investigation of the fake eligibility certificates last August.

"Employees who are found to have submitted fake documents shall be subject to administrative sanctions and/or criminal prosecution," Inocentes said in a memorandum.

An SBMA source said the fake certificates were secured to assure tenure or promotion.

According to the source, fixers required P15,000 to P20,000, depending on the position and salary grade of the SBMA employee. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

70 caught smoking in Davao arrested

DAVAO CITY—A total of 70 people were arrested when the city government on Saturday started implementing the Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance.

Those arrested included an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Sarangani Province and a 17-year-old boy.

Roque Arellano, 49, of Glan, Sarangani, was arrested at 8:30 a.m. Saturday while he was about to board a passenger bus at the Davao City Overland Transport Terminal.

He claimed that he was not aware of the city's smoking ban and that he should not be arrested.

The other violators were apprehended while smoking inside billiard halls, videoke bars, and passenger jeepneys.

City Ordinance No. 043-02, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance, prohibits smoking in public places where people usually converge, public streets, hotels, restaurants and other establishments.

The ordinance requires all establishments to put up smoking rooms.

Violators will be penalized with both imprisonment and a fine ranging from P500 to P2,000 and a cancellation of business permit for establishments.

For smokers in public utility jeepneys, the fine is pegged at P300 to P1,000, cancellation of driver's license and three months imprisonment.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Baguio officials withdraw ID system as anti-terror summit opens in Manila

BAGUIO CITY—City officials temporarily withdrew on Thursday a proposed ordinance on basic identification (Basic ID) and population reference system, on the eve of an international anti-terrorism summit in Manila last Nov. 8.

The measure, which was passed on first reading last week in a special council session, would have piloted Ms Macapagal's controversial national ID system.

Councilor Elmer Datuin, who sponsored the measure, said an INQUIRER report "warranted clearer instructions" from Malacañang.

The INQUIRER quoted information technology (IT) experts in government and in private business, who claimed that the database required by a basic ID system would cost as much as P100 million in software and hardware material.

A technological profile developed by Edwin Manaois, the city's IT specialist, estimated a P4.5-million budget for a low-security identification system.

"Since the legislative process required the publication of this proposed ordinance, we wanted to factor in the full cost of such a system and the guarantee that this would not be shouldered by (Baguio residents)," Datuin told the INQUIRER.

A militant group, however, said the council shelved the measure "in light of a Supreme Court ruling declaring as null and void the adoption of a national computerized identification reference system."

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) quoted an unnamed administration councilor as its source who referred to a 1998 SC ruling that voided an administrative order by former President Fidel Ramos on a unified ID program.

"If this is any indication, this move (to withdraw the ID ordinance) suggests that the local government has backtracked . . . but this is only a tactical retreat," said Voltaire Tupaz, a CPA official.

"Malacañang is hell bent (on cutting) corners in its mad-drive to unleash draconian measures as part of its commitment to (the US war on terrorism). The piloting of the ID system in Baguio and Cebu attempts to shift the burden of defending the national ID to local government units."

The CPA mounted a rally last week only to discover that the measure had already been passed on first reading.

But Datuin insisted that he withdrew the measure from the council's Nov. 6 session to factor in the "reasonable" cost of the basic ID system before the council approves it on second reading and its mandatory publication.

"We need some more tinkering so I returned it to the (mayor's office). The councilors discussed this financial concern with (Baguio Mayor Bernardo) Vergara and (Baguio Rep. Mauricio) Domogan to determine whether the city can subsidize the full cost. We realized we could not," he said.

The proposed ID ordinance only fixes a P50 processing fee from residents and a P20 processing fee from tourists.

Vergara had requested Malacañang to release the city's calamity funds for its pilot ID project, only to be told by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez that the city must first be declared a calamity area.

The mayor's request was based on a Malacañang pronouncement that calamity funds could be realigned to finance counter-terrorism projects. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

No cause for alarm, says Ople son

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Mayor Felix Ople allayed fears raised by his father, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, that communist rebels might target Bulacan after the elder Ople successfully lobbied for European Union's declaration of the New People's Army as a terrorist organization.

Earlier, Senator Ople, a native of this town, expressed alarm that the NPA might put his town on top of their offensive targets to get back at him.

Mayor Ople said the economic opportunity given by the government to farmers, fishermen and rebel returnees contributed to the decline of insurgency-related incidents here and in Malolos, Paombong, Bulacan and Calumpit towns.

He said the Hagonoy municipal government built a 250-meter wide fish cage in Barangay Tibaguin to provide the fishing families and rebel returnees with a source of livelihood.

"We all know that the armed struggle in the coastlines of Hagonoy, Paombong, Malolos and Bulacan is the fight of small fishermen who are oppressed by big-time financiers of fishery structures," Ople said.

He said some of these fishermen join the underground movement and demand revolutionary taxes to get even with the fishpond owners.

Ople said the big-time fishpond operators in his town opposed his project for the town's fishing families, claiming that it would threaten their businesses.

But he said he pursued it to give poor residents an opportunity to manage their own fishery structures and not to depend on fishpond financiers.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr. Bulacan police director, said the police remained on alert after Senator Ople raised the alarm on the possible NPA attacks in the province. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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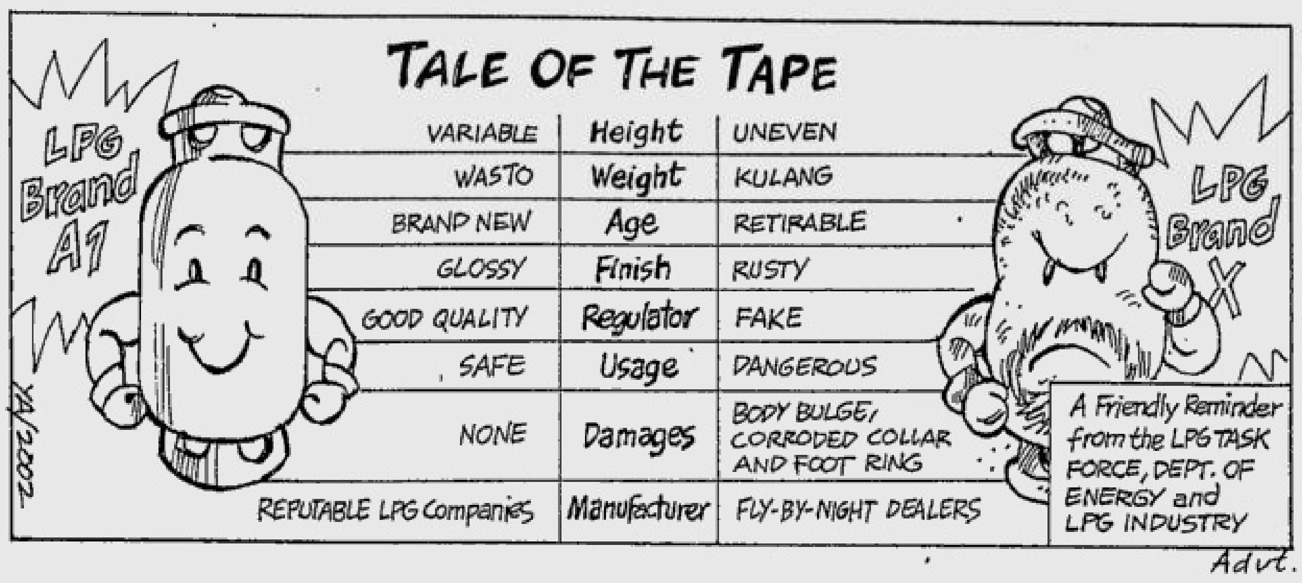

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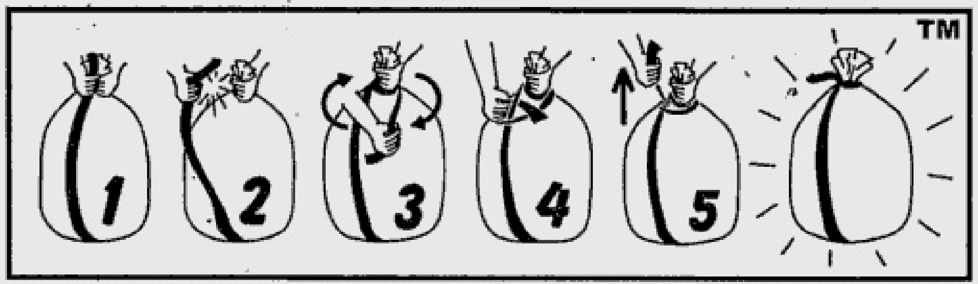

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

November 4, 2002

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 16-A-2002

SUBJECT : Amending the Effectivity Date of Revenue Regulations No. 16-2002
TO : All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others Concerned

Due to the delay in the opening of demand deposit accounts of the Bureau of Treasury for the BIR in the head offices of the Authorized Agent Banks, the effectivity date of Revenue Regulations No. 16-2002 is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 9 OF REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 16-2002

"SEC.9 EFFECTIVITY – These Regulations shall take effect on November 19, 2002. The effectivity date of the switch-over from the current acknowledgment slip to the BIR-prescribed deposit slip under Section 2-D hereof shall likewise be on November 19, 2002."

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVITY. These Regulations shall take effect immediately.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

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Tiglao denies revamp; Herrera admits offer

From page A1

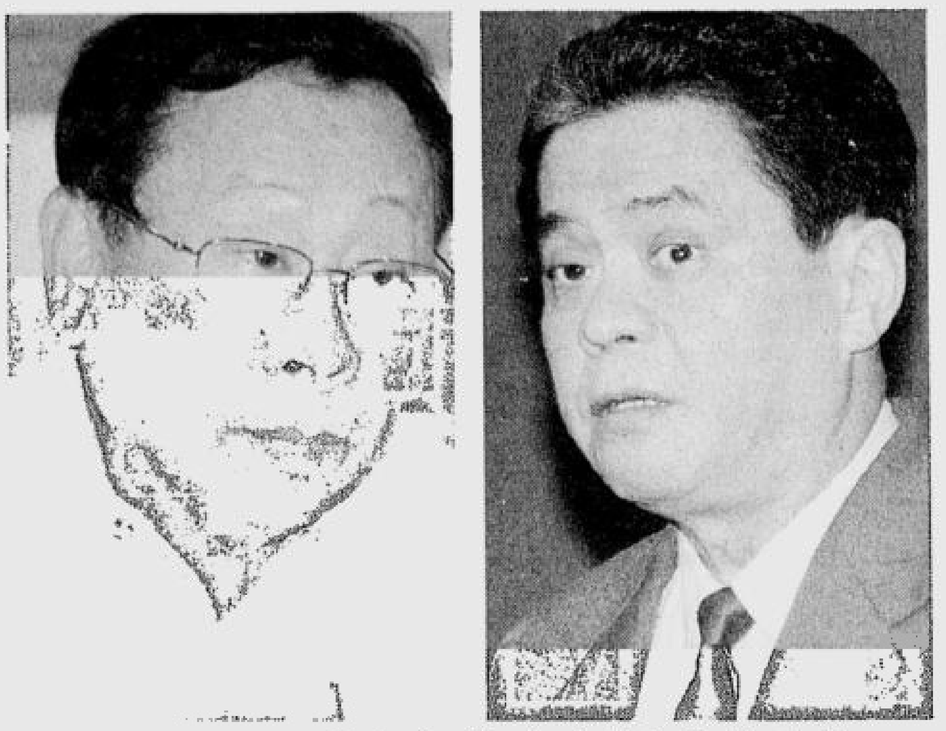
revamp was to allow certain Cabinet members to prepare for the Senate race in 2004.

The President, he said, also needed new faces in the Cabinet for her "strong republic" campaign.

Herrera said that based on surveys, the people's acceptance of the Macapagal administration was not good. The President is hoping that with new personalities in her Cabinet, the acceptance level of her administration would also improve, he said.

Herrera said he was first offered the top labor post before the 2001 elections, but he turned it down because he was running for senator.

After the elections, he said he was asked again to join the Cabinet to be the presidential adviser on safety nets of the government's globalization program, but he again declined because he said he could not leave the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.



ROMULO AND TIGLAO: Said to be deeply involved with the President in the planned revamp and assessment of the Cabinet's performance.

Movement

A legislator close to the President insisted that "there really is movement (in the Cabinet)," saying the revamp was needed to boost the President's acceptance rating and further increase her chance of victory in the 2004 presidential election.

A ranking administration official said the planned revamp was just a "tactical effect" of the President's strong republic campaign.

The official said there was supposed to have been a revamp of "two to three Cabinet members" in June, but this did not push through.

Even so, Tiglao insisted that the INQUIRER question the motives of its sources on the planned revamp.

He also scoffed at claims that there was strong pressure on the President to reshuffle her Cabinet because of public perception that not much was being done to improve the country's situation and uplift the plight of the poor.

"That is a completely baseless assessment," Tiglao said.

On track

He said reports showed that business activity, including the government's latest priority—housing—and exports, were "on the up trend."

"Most of the President's projects to move the economy are on track and starting to bear concrete results," Tiglao said.

A former business reporter, the presidential spokesperson also noted that "all of the country's macro-economic indicators are stable."

Tiglao made no direct comment on reports that unless President Macapagal revamped her Cabinet, this could affect her chances of getting reelected in the 2004 elections.

"The President has been focusing on the economy and resolving peace and order problems. That's all," Tiglao said.

In an interview yesterday over radio RMN, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted that the President had made no indications that she was revamping her Cabinet.

But the lawmaker close to the President said Ms Macapagal had acknowledged the need for a revamp during one of their meetings.

"If she doesn't make a move by January, it might be too late. By that time, there should be a clean slate," he said. "The pressure is strong (for a revamp) because it's (the country's situation) really bad."

2004 chances

The legislator said the President's chances in the 2004 presidential election were getting hurt by public perception that corruption was continuing, the economy was just surviving, the fight against criminality was not improving and that "virtually, we're just running in place, but not moving ahead."

"If this continues, imagine the possibility of a President in power getting only four seats in the Senate and the rest (of the seats) going to the opposition?" he said. "She might even lose the (presidential) election."

Elections for 12 Senate seats are also scheduled in 2004.

"With no drastic move, it would be very difficult for the President to recover (from public perception that she is not governing well)," the legislator added.

According to the high ranking administration official, the revamp "is just one component" of the strong republic campaign.

Aside from the President herself, Tiglao and Romulo, two of the officials closest to her, are deeply involved in the planned revamp and assessment of the Cabinet's performance, the official said.

The revamp, said a source, "would project the seriousness of this administration in its campaign for a strong republic."

"A strong republic is a process that involves not just the government, but also the citizenry," said the source, a ranking administration official.

"The revamp is just one of the tactical effects of the strong republic campaign," the official added.

GMA party

Part of the campaign, the official said, was the President's effort to build her own party, drawing from the ruling Lakas party, which helped put Fidel V. Ramos in power in 1992.

According to the official, Ms Macapagal has proposed that the ruling party now be called Lakas ng Demokratang Kristiyano at Muslim, in the process dropping the NUCD (National Union of Christian Democrats) as an annex in the ruling party's acronym.

"The campaign for a strong republic is a combination of old and new strategies" including a revamp of the Cabinet, said the official.

But the legislator close to Ms Macapagal said "there should be new faces" in the Cabinet and "it (the revamp) should not just be a switching of positions."

He said one of the difficulties confronting Ms Macapagal in the planned revamp was firing Cabinet members close to her.

"Those without political clout, she can easily remove," he said. "But those whom she has known for quite some time and those who know so many secrets will be difficult to fire."

The official said if there was any advice the President should heed in picking her new Cabinet members, it should be this: "Do not promote people to their level of incompetence."

Drop in ratings

The planned reshuffle comes in the wake of the President's roller-coaster popularity rating.

The Ibon Foundation Databank and Research Center conducted a survey in January that showed her with a negative 8.72 satisfaction rating nationwide.

In the same month, Pulse Asia released survey results indicating that more and more Filipinos felt that the quality of their lives had deteriorated. It showed that public approval for the President fell by 6 percentage points from 63 percent in October to 57 percent in December last year.

A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey of net public satisfaction in the President's performance during the first quarter showed her rating falling from 27 points in November last year to 16 in April this year.

Another survey conducted by Pulse Asia said the number of people who gave the President "small trust" had increased compared with the number of people who gave her "big trust."

Ms Macapagal's net trust rating also slipped from 35 in the last quarter of 2001 to 23 during the first quarter this year.

But in August, SWS said 54.9 percent of 1,200 respondents polled on Aug. 6-9 were satisfied with her performance, and 26.5 percent were dissatisfied. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Labor groups welcome reshuffle

By Blanche S. Rivera

MILITANT groups yesterday welcomed reports that Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas would soon be out of the Department of Labor and Employment, saying it was a "victory" of their campaign.

Migrante International, who spearheaded the drive to oust Sto. Tomas from the department, said the "betrayal" suffered by overseas Filipino workers had backfired on her.

Another group, the Kilusang Mayo Uno, however, rejected Sto. Tomas' reported replacement, former Labor chief and Sen. Ernesto Herrera, claiming he was another "anti-worker element."

In an INQUIRER interview in Cebu City, Herrera admitted that he was offered the labor portfolio, but he declined because he would rather remain in the private sector.

The KMU said it would oppose the appointment of Herrera to the DOLE, although the INQUIRER report mentioned that he was just a candidate for the post.

The Cabinet revamp was supposed to be announced on Nov. 30, according to the report. Sto. Tomas and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. were reportedly among those to be eased out.

"We refuse to choose between Sto. Tomas and Herrera. Nobody is the lesser evil between the two of them," Joel Maglunsod, KMU secretary for federation affairs, said.

Migrante spokesperson Maita Santiago said the militant groups had worked hard since the second quarter to prove that Sto. Tomas had betrayed the cause of the workers, especially those abroad.

Santiago recalled the allegedly onerous contracts lowering the minimum wage for workers in Saudi Arabia, as well as the DOLE's silence on the suspended wage cut for Hong Kong migrant workers.

Sto. Tomas could not be reached for comment yesterday, but she had earlier insisted that she did not agree to any wage cuts in any receiving country.

'Imelda knows that I know ...

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with her," she added.

Gaddi was initially hesitant to talk about the reasons core Marcos loyalists had ended their association with Imelda. But eventually she admitted that they were disillusioned and disappointed with Imelda because she had failed to fulfill her promises to help the poor—even when she is now in a position to do so.

"She's in a position to help her loyalists, but I see no sign on her part," Gaddi said.

Especially now, she said, because Imelda now has the financial means to return the gratitude of her husband's loyalists.

Gaddi said that while she did not know the details, she understood that Imelda got a "very substantial amount" in a settlement of the ownership dispute of certain shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Gaddi said Imelda often spoke about sharing, giving and loving, but had in fact not made any "honest-to-goodness effort to reach out to them." She was referring to the plight of Marcos loyalists in particular, many of whom she said are poor.

She said Imelda extended token assistance of rice and other food items to some illegal settlers in Tondo, Manila. "But that's not just where the Marcos loyalists are," she said.

Hundreds of thousands

Gaddi said there were still several hundreds of thousands of Marcos loyalists left over from the million or so organized by dedicated Marcos loyalist Cherry Cobarrubias. These loyalists are not faceless, nameless people, she said, because Cobarrubias had documented their names and addresses.

During the birthday celebration of the late President a few years ago, she recalled, she found three thick books left on the Marcos tomb by a jeep-load of loyalists from Bukidnon.

When she opened the books, she found the names and addresses of all Marcos loyalists from Bukidnon.

The Bukidnon delegation told her they left the books to tell the dead President that they still loved him.

"These people may be expecting a Marcos to help them. Maybe not. But for whatever it's worth, there are many things she (Imelda) can do for them," she said.

Even if she didn't have the money, Gaddi said, Imelda could have set up an office to help Marcos loyalists source assistance from the government.

"Over the years since she came back, she could have done a lot, even to meet with them," she said.

Matter of principle

Gaddi said she and others who served Imelda in various official or unofficial capacities were "not expecting to be paid."

"It's just a matter of principle. She could have asked how she can help," she said.

She said Cobarrubias particularly felt disillusioned because she labored hard to organize the Marcos loyalists and keep them together, even up till now.

"Her character has been consistent with what she is. I am distancing myself (from her) because *lumabas na 'yong . . .*," she said without completing the Filipino phrase for "it has come out." She could have either meant the truth (*"lumabas na 'yong katotohanan"*) or Imelda's true character (*"lumabas na 'yong totoong ugali"*).

A meeting of those disgruntled with Imelda led other Marcos loyalists to egg her to write a book. She has since agreed.

"It's the story of the people who have been associated with her," she said. "They want to tell their own stories."

And she said she would write about Imelda "as I have known her."

Gaddi first worked as announcer for Maharlika Broadcasting Corp., the government channel, in 1975. A favorite of the First Couple, she was then assigned to cover the First Lady whenever she traveled.

When Marcos was overthrown, Gaddi was harassed and had to send her children abroad.

At a time when nobody wanted to be associated with the Marcoses, she said, she kept her faith in them and visited them in Honolulu, Hawaii, where they were living in exile. She later joined Imelda for her trial in New York where she served as paralegal to her lawyer, Gerry Spence. Her children sometimes drove for Imelda for her court appearances.

She wrote speeches for Imelda when the former Rose of Tacloban got elected to Congress and gave advice when she ran for the presidency. In short, she was with Imelda through thick and thin.

"But I (have since) found out that . . . she doesn't need my support anymore," she said.

Coup rumors fester amid disaffection

From page A1

will continue to fuel coup conspiracy reports and coup rumors will continue to fester in the remaining months of her administration.

But the objective chances of a military coup succeeding are slim. In the history of coup attempts in this country since the six coups against the administration of President Corazon Aquino from 1986 to 1989, all these plots failed. Coups have no record of success, and this lesson has not been lost on the veteran coup plotters—most of all the charismatic former RAM leader, now Sen. Gregorio Honasan. It is not lost on the military and on any military officer, past or present, entertaining adventurist projects of military intervention.

Serious conspiracy

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has learned the lesson very well that a coup is a serious conspiracy with a good chance of success if it is shrouded in secrecy rather than broadcast to all corners of the country, that there is a strong aversion to military adventurism in the civic and political culture of Philippine democracy, and that a military takeover is not going to deliver the paradise of a competent and corruption-free government.

This is the reason why in the 1999-2001 constitutional crisis of the Estrada administration, Reyes and the officer corps decided to withdraw support from Estrada, even though the general staff had the golden opportunity to take power instead of switching allegiance to the obvious constitutional successor, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The RAM, in the 1980s, and the Reyes cabal in 2001, have learned another lesson. There must be a profound reason and widespread unrest capable of mobilizing masses in the streets before military intervention can be justified and accepted by the people.

The 1986 mutiny led by Gen. Fidel Ramos and Juan Ponce Enrile sparked People Power I, but it became a popular conflagration after civilian participation transformed the revolt into people power. Even so, the military was so fractured by the mutiny that the split fueled six coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

REYES: Learned coup lesson very well.

Reyes has learned the lesson that when the chain of command is disrupted, the military would be fighting each other—which was what happened from 1986 to 1989. And so, in January 2001, he solidified the chain of command whose intervention in 2001 by withdrawing support from Estrada precipitated the collapse of his administration.

The concept of chain of command has been strengthened, and today, any military coup plotter must have to contend against this chain and the solidarity of the general staff. There is no evidence that the general staff, even that led by the chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, is flirting with the idea of seizing power, regardless of the disaffection with the Macapagal administration.

Not incendiary enough

The scale of unrest and popular outrage against the Macapagal administration has not reached proportions that swept Estrada out of power. Therefore, it takes more than the present issues raised against the President to mobilize mass demonstrations and to force the general staff to make a move against the government.

The issues cited by former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia—soldiers' pay, favoritism of promotion, irregularities in military procurement, and "revolving door" terms of the chief of staff—are not sufficient and incendiary reasons from which to mount a coup that will be widely supported by civilians.

The grievances cited by Abadia have festered the AFP for as long as we can remember. They are nothing compared to the issues that engulfed the Marcos or Estrada administrations and that opened the floodgates of popular rising that swept them out of office.

Abadia's reasons, citing unidentified text messages, are intra-military issues that civilians cannot identify with and which can drive them marching in the streets. It needed such cataclysmic event as the abortion of the impeachment trial of Estrada to ignite the explosion of People Power II at Edsa.

No matter how garrulous and self-important Copa or PCA (People's Consultative Assembly) are, they cannot be the prime movers to drive the military to stage a coup. They are bit players, a public nuisance, and indeed, they are magnifying their own capacity to stir up discontent.

On the issue of short-term chiefs of staff, the reason the President has appointed already three chiefs of staff in a space of nearly two years is that she does not want to have a military chief with a tenure that will allow him to consolidate power and to be the rallying point of the Armed Forces. This is, in part, a coup preventive measure.

As of today, there is no dominant military leader with the same control and consolidation as Reyes during Estrada's presidency.

Inhospitable

I think we should not be distracted or should give too much attention to coup reports. Conditions for launching a successful coup with popular support are extremely inhospitable.

What should worry the Macapagal administration is that its credibility and integrity are being eaten from within by the corrosive acids of the activities of the President's associates perceived to be corrupt and being tolerated by her.

She is losing ground and if she is driven out of office, it will be electorally, not by a coup, which is an alternative shunned even by the opposition and which the officer corps is extremely reluctant to take.

The President is more likely today than she was a year ago to be defeated in 2004. But the coup is not the route to stop her reelection bid.

If she loses power, we don't need a coup. Her assassins are inside her camp.

Defensor affirms right to go after coup texters

By Martin P. Marfil

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor yesterday reiterated that he had the right to go after soldiers texting coup rumors, noting that military justice was very different from its civilian concept.

"We have our own military justice system, it is different from the justice of a civilian court and if you are in active service, you are bound by the Articles of War. That's why commanders in the Armed Forces have a lot of powers that are not inherent in a civilian justice system," he said.

Defensor spoke after the ceremonies activating the 9th Infantry Division, a "ready-reserve force" headed by former Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan.

Asked if he would have coup texters arrested, Defensor said yes.

"Oh yes, even if I don't like your face, I'll have you arrested. Nobody can question me. That is how the military justice system works," he said.

The remarks came in the wake of criticisms that Defensor's warning to soldiers texting coup rumors would be arrested. This stemmed from a newspaper report that came out last week saying that a coup was being planned for December.

The report has since been denied by the military establishment which paraded a host of commissioned and non-commissioned officers who denied recruitment of their men.

According to the report, the coup would be fueled by soldiers' discontent over salary increases, anomalies in the defense department and the "revolving-door" policy on chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

It had also prompted former Constabulary chief Ramon Montano to call for the resignation of Macapagal officials, including Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor congratulate Col. Rafael Alunan III (center) during the activation of the "ready reserve force," the 9th Infantry Division to be headed by the former interior secretary. ERIK ARAZAS

CBCP: Shift from streets to classrooms

From page A1

encouraging individuals, communities and private groups and organizations to adopt impoverished schools all over the country.

Help can come in the form of donations of school buildings and textbooks, sending poor children to schools and sponsoring teacher-training programs.

The program was conceptualized in view of the sorry state of the Philippine educational system, given the government's meager resources to address the educational needs of children all over the country.

The Archdiocese of Manila is supporting the adopt-a-school program.

"Let us move people power from the streets to the classroom. The power of change lies in the educated youth and children," said Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas, who is also the spokesperson of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"The new game of peace is progress. The new task of people power is the promotion of progress through education," Villegas said, himself a virtual hero in both Edsa II and the failed Edsa III. *Armand N. Nocum*

Dante Ang fumes, files ₱60-M suit

From page A1

"shadowy character," "certified liar" and "partner in crime." They have also described his wealth as "dirty money."

In response, Ang has filed a libel complaint against Linda Montayre, secretary general of the anti-administration People's Consultative Assembly, and the newspaper Daily Tribune. He is also seeking P60 million in damages.

The libel complaint stemmed from a headline story published by the Daily Tribune on Oct. 21 titled "GMA involved with Ang in BankWise Inc. buy-in."

In a statement, Ang said the story caused him "tremendous disgrace, dishonor and obloquy."

Ang also said that the story likewise described him as an "influence peddler" working "covertly to destroy perceived political opponents" of the President.

Through his lawyer, Ang submitted a seven-page affidavit-complaint in the Office of the Manila Prosecutor on Oct. 24.

Aside from Montayre, named as respondents were Daily Tribune publisher Niñez Cacho-Olivarez, news editor Romulo Marinas, city editor Gina Capili-Inciong, circulation manager Lito Tugade and Malacañang reporter Sherwin Olaes.

The Daily Tribune story was one of the several news reports generated by Ang's previous admission that he bought into BankWise, a small thrift bank.

"Montayre's lies, Tribune's willingness to spread her dirt and add its defamatory characterization of my person have caused me and my family great anguish and humiliation," Ang said.

Ang said it wasn't true that he bought the bank for P500 million and fronted for Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Ang stressed that he merely "bought" into the bank by acquiring 4 percent of Seed Capital, the group of investors that took over BankWise.

Ang said the Daily Tribune "did not even have the decency" to get his side before publishing the story. *Carlito Pablo*

A case of . . .

From page A1

trayed the causes that they had believed in."

"She made decisions without consulting them when they were so blindly loyal to her," Rosales said in a phone interview.

She was referring to such disclosures as Cobarrubias' dismay over the Marcos family's decision to bury the late President in Ilocos Norte—when Marcos loyalists had been pushing for the burial to take place at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Metro Manila for the last 11 years.

The loyalists were also outraged that Imelda, after allegedly receiving some P2 billion from the Cojuangcos in a reported settlement of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. ownership dispute, had failed to fulfill her promise to help Marcos supporters.

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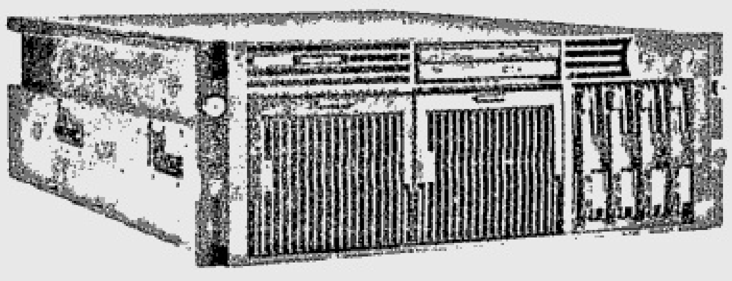

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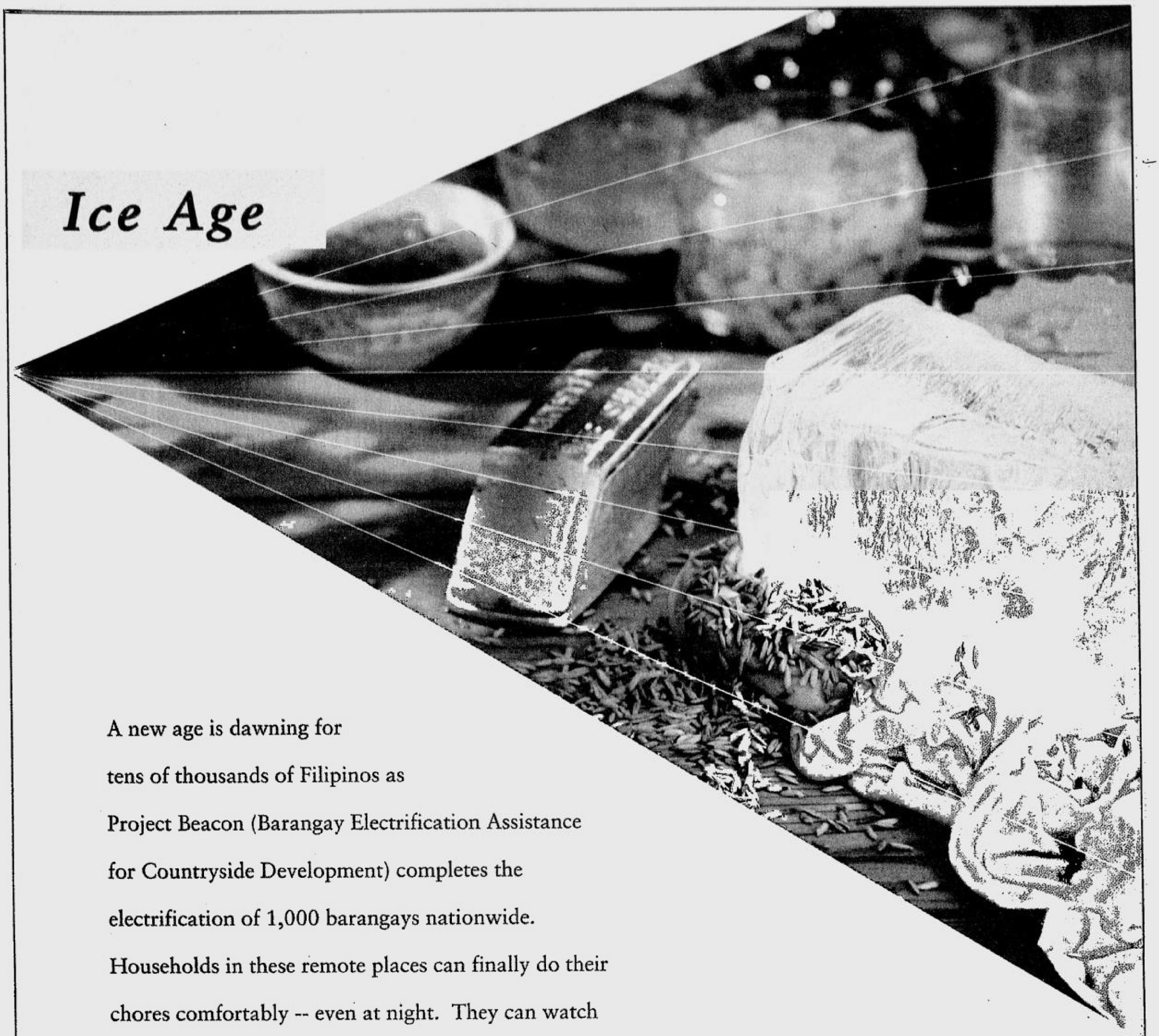

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Imelda: No ₱2-billion compromise deal

From page A1

sinasasabi dati ni Cherry (na) ang sarap ipaglaban ni Marcos (Cherry used to say it was a joy to fight for Marcos). But I am sorry that we have not been able to reward them or to pay them the *utang na loob* (the debt of gratitude we owe them) because we are still incapable of (doing) it," she said.

She declined to elaborate on the settlement, but did claim that the information in yesterday's INQUIRER report had been published before.

"In fact, we even have difficulty paying our electric bills. They have not even returned my personal belongings (displayed in Malacañang)," she said.

Should the government return the Marcoses' assets, these would benefit the country and the Filipinos, she said.

"We have been persecuted by (the) government in the last 17 years. My personal clothes in Malacañang were even displayed, the *ternos*, the Philippine dresses were all over Malacañang and (have not been) returned to us," she said.

"I want to let everybody know that in the event that the Marcos assets are justly returned, you can be sure that we will not only be helping the (Marcos) loyalists but the country and the Filipinos. This is our commitment because we are here not to take but to give and love," she said.

"You know that the Marcoses are in hard times. Our ancestral homes have just been returned," she said.

Ex-loyalists

Mrs. Marcos admitted that she still owed Marcos loyalist leaders like Cobarrubias, Gaddi, Anthony Violago and Nonoy Escolin.

"Yes, it is true that I have not yet fully rewarded these people who have been intensely vocal Marcos loyalists during my many years of persecution and deprivation," Mrs. Marcos said.

The ex-loyalists are coming out with a book of "inside stories" revealing the "real" Imelda Marcos.

Mrs. Marcos did not say what displeased Cobarrubias' group, but surmised that they could have felt abandoned ("*napabayaan*").

"If they come to our home, we welcome them. In fact, I want to meet them. I have always been nice and warm to all of them," she said.

Mrs. Marcos arrived at the Laoag International Airport at 4 p.m. yesterday and proceeded to the family's Batac mansion. She joined her daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, in her pre-birthday sorties in this town. Imee will celebrate her birthday on Nov. 12.

The PCGG had asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue in June to investigate the former first lady for possible tax liability arising from the alleged P2-billion settlement.

Under the terms, Mrs. Marcos allegedly received P1.6 billion as of May 31 and was to get P200 milllion before Aug. 31, and another P200 million before Oct. 31, completing the settlement payment by a yet unknown party.

A source at the PCGG had earlier told the INQUIRER that the settlement could have involved the Cojuangco shares in PLDT.

Marcos had claimed ownership of those same Cojuangco shares in an INQUIRER story four years ago.

Ill-gotten wealth

In a press statement, Salonga said that on the basis of Malacañang records that fell into his possession shortly after the Marcos couple and their three children fled Malacañang Palace in the evening of Feb. 25, 1986—the last day of Edsa I—the Marcoses had been secretly depositing their ill-gotten wealth in the Credit Suisse Bank by virtue of the contracts they had signed on March 20 and March 21, 1968.

In 1998, Mrs. Marcos told the Associated Press and Agence France Presse correspondents in Manila that "there is more money that the (Philippine) government is not yet aware of, but for the time being, I can admit that there is only $800 million in various international banks."

On March 1, 1999, Salonga added, the Supreme Court upheld with finality the P23.5-billion tax assessment levied by the BIR in 1993. Considering the 20-percent interest imposed under the law, the liability of the Marcos family, reckoned as of 1993, should now amount to P121.2 billion due to delinquency interest, Salonga said.

Salonga said that in his opinion, "the four agencies of government that have the right and the authority to summon and investigate the Marcoses, whose enormous income and inheritance tax liabilities remain unpaid up to now, are the BIR, the PCGG, the Ombudsman and the Senate blue ribbon committee."

The former first lady's remarks last night essentially stuck to the prepared statement her office circulated yesterday.

In that statement, she said the family's assets had yet to be fully returned and that she lacked the means to "reward" the services of some of her loyalists.

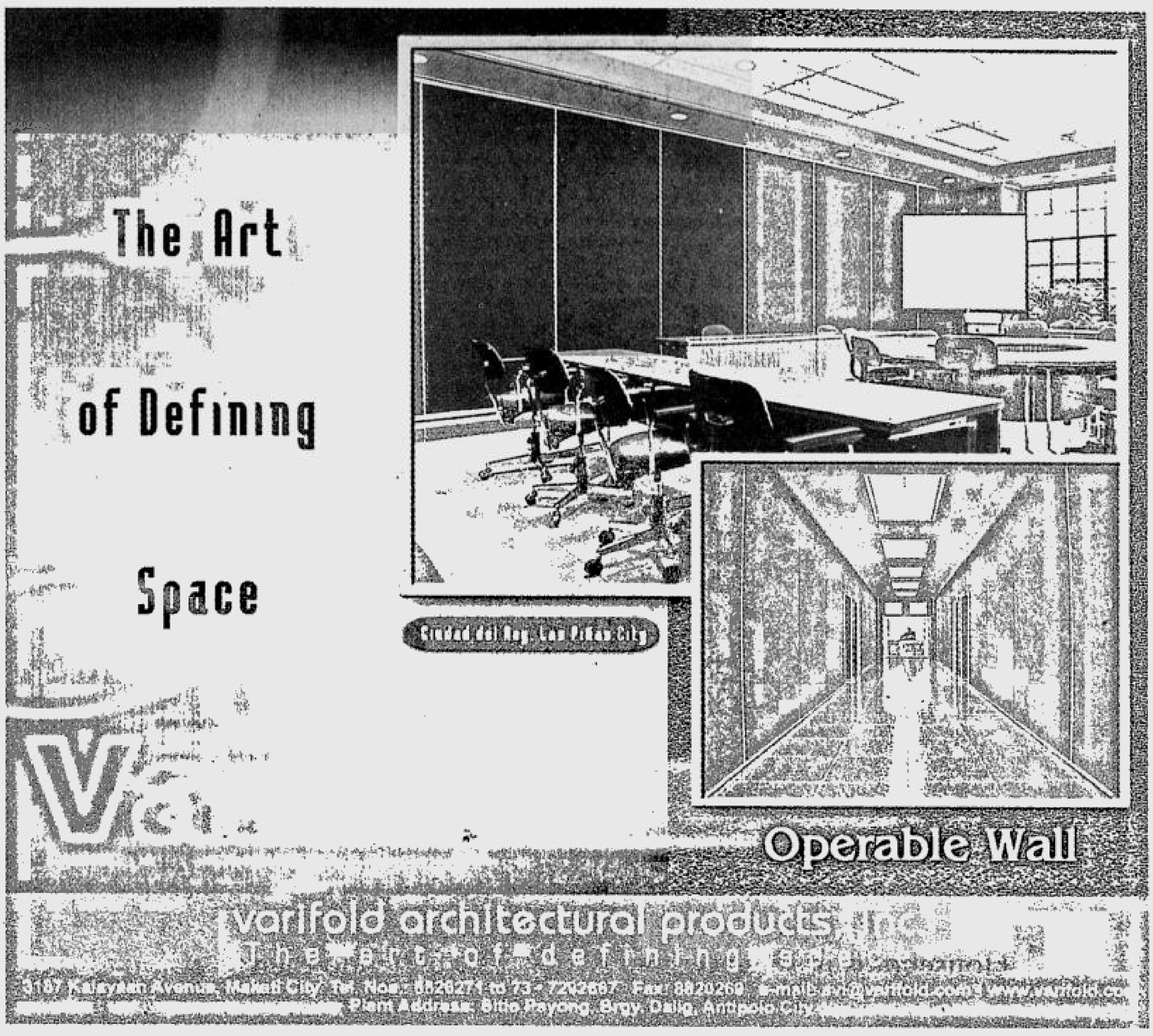
She made no direct mention of the reported P2-billion "mystery" settlement she allegedly entered into, but a close aide of the former first lady said the statement was her denial of the report received by the PCGG.

"Their financial situation has not changed. They still find it difficult to pay up on services such as the electricity of the Marcos mausoleum," the source said.

In Congress, a human rights victim during martial law said the P2-billion deal should be used to pay the $150 million settlement of a $2-billion judgment that Marcos human rights victims obtained from a US district court in 1995.

Erratum

THE PRESS briefing conducted by Presidential Commission on Good Government official Ruben Carranza, discussing the agency's request for the Bureau of Internal Revenue to investigate yet another possible tax liability of former first lady Imelda Marcos, was held last June, not last Thursday, as was inadvertently reported yesterday. Our apologies for the error.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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 11, 2002
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Tit 1:1-9
Gospel: Lk 17:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Scandals will necessarily come and cause people to fall; but woe to the one who has brought it about. It would be better for that one to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around the neck. Truly this would be better for that person than to cause one of these little ones to fall.

Be careful. If your brother offends you, rebuke him and if he is sorry, forgive him. And if he offends you seven times in a day but says to you seven times: 'I'm sorry,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Commentary

Jesus is very realistic and blunt here. He does not try to give an illusory picture about day-to-day human living. Nor does he try to bring us to a dreamy world. He takes life as it is lived and tries to give it a different orientation. "You must forgive." Without the spirit of forgiveness, life becomes absolutely impossible. Forgiveness is the very air we breathe. When God forgives, he forgets. We can experience forgiveness only to the extent that we are prepared to forgive others. It is in forgiving that we are forgiven. There is a direct connection between forgiving and faith. The deeper our faith is, the deeper our forgiving becomes. Actually, in the process of forgiving, our faith deepens. Jesus was the forgiving person par excellence, because his faith was perfect.

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VICTORY PARTY
Philracom officials led by chair Jimmy Dilag (fourth from right) are shown with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and members of the Philippine equestrian team during the recent victory party for Busan Asian Games individual show jumping gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski (extreme right) at Wack Wack. Accompanying Dilag were Commissioners Eduardo Domingo Jr., Eduardo Jose and Rogelio Tandiama.

STA. LUCIA TOUR

Alta Vista tops Visayan leg

CEBU—Alta Vista threw the full weight of its deep bench to dominate the Visayas leg of the nationwide Sta. Lucia Tour over the weekend.

Alta Vista's main team of Carl Almario, Dennis Canoy and Edito Tirol got their much-needed revenge in ruling Group I by a big margin over their first leg tormentors, Rancho Palos Verdes of Davao.

The backup teams completed the show of force by the Cebuanos as they also took Group II through Boby Barria, Eugene Tio, Rolando Alberto and King Beng Ong and allowed only two major trophies to slip off their grip.

Eagle Ridge saw its three-peat bid for the Sta. Lucia Cup gravely endangered despite winning the Group III division, a consoling feat that prevented what could have been a sweep for the well-represented home team.

With Joel Agbanlog winning Class C in individual play to foil a similar sweep bid by Alta Vista, Eagle Ridge was actually the only team which came up with a worthy challenge in the second stage of a series backed by Unirock, Corp. Readycon and Taylor-Made adidas.

Minor sponsors are Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Omega, Kodak, Philippine Airlines, and Cebu Pacific. Callaway and Yamaha are the hole-in-one prize providers while Hyatt (Manila), Marco Polo (Davao) and Cebu Plaza are the official hotels.

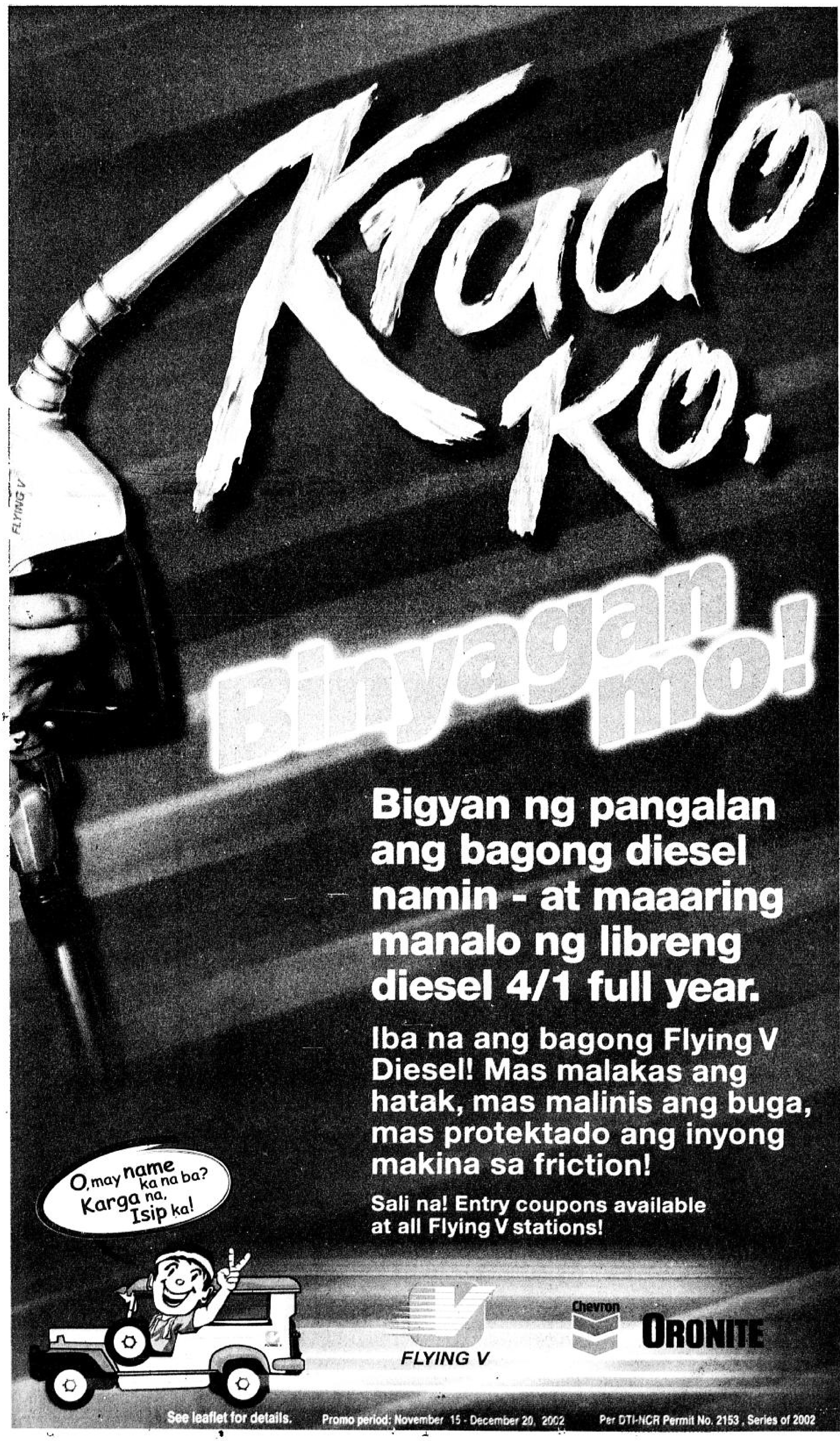
Accounting for Alta Vista's near-sweep in the individual category were Carl Almario whose 102 gave him the Class A title, Vicente Go who took the Class C crown and Georgi Go who cornered the Class D plum.

The Group III title was successfully defended by Eagle Ridge's Agbanlog, Jose Bustos Nepomuceno, Benito Oblena and Kyung Hun Kim.

The guns of Rancho Palos Verde, the big winner in the kick-off leg which it also hosted, suddenly fell silent with its A team failing to match the Alta Vista assault.

Alta Vista thus piled enough points to give it enough cushion when the series moves on to its final stage next month in Luzon with Eagle Ridge, Orchard and Royale Tagaytay joining hands in a triple co-hosting scheme.

Royale will be staging a pre-leg par-3 shootout sponsored by Taylor-Made, Orchard hosts Round 1 while Eagle Ridge stages the final round.



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Sta. Elena bets aim for 3-peat in The Tradition

STA. Elena guns for a championship three-peat under a new format but against a bigger cast when the eighth edition of The Tradition is played starting today at the hazard-laden Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

After pulling off close victories the past two years, Sta. Elena will be facing a tougher field in the three-day event to be played in a four-day span in three different venues with varying characters.

The entry of Mt. Malarayat and Riviera boosts the size of the field from last year's 10 to 12.

The new members will also be hosting the tourney. From Riviera, the battles moves to the Makulot-Lobo course of Mt. Malarayat on Nov. 12 then to the Legends course of Manila Southwoods on Nov. 14.

All starts will be shotgun style starting at 8 a.m.

The size of teams has been reduced from the usual 16 to 12 with only two men's team and seniors. It will be a four-to-play, three-to-count format for all the three divisions with each team vying for the maximum points on offer.

The Tradition presents a unique objective in the sense that it seeks to keep the purity of the game by way of staging friendly competition that offers no monetary or big prizes for the winners. There is, however, a hole-in-one award worth P50,000.

Demo sessions at Makati range

THE COUNTRY'S top equipment dealers are joining hands for a unique series of demo sessions at the much-talked about Makati Golf Club, the country's first ever fully automated driving range which is now being prepared for its forthcoming grand opening.

As part of its final testing stage, the four-story facility which will also houses the country's first-ever Golf Mall, it will be opened for free-hitting for members and invited guests from 5-10 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday starting this week.

Mizuno and S-Yard will be providing clubs on Tuesdays, Wilson equipment will be on testing on Wednesdays, Callaway takes care of Thursdays while Taylor Made will be the main product on display on Fridays.

The Makati Golf Club, located at 7232 Malugay St., Barangay Bel-Air Makati, is touted to become the new sports hangout in Metro Makati.

For inquiries, please call the Makati Golf Club at 8938379 or 8938392. The lead marketing arm is GG&A Club Shares.

La Salle meet Nov. 25

THE DE La Salle Alumni Association is inviting all La Salle golfers to the first leg of the newly formed La Salle Golf Circuit. The event will be hosted by the College of Liberal Arts Chapter and is set to tee off at 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 25 at the Sta. Elena Golf Course. For details, please contact the DLSAA office at 523-6158 or Franco Del Rosario at 0917-5374435.

TOP ROOKIE
Nikki Romero of Club 200 Racing-R-II Builders displays his winning form during the novice race in the Shell Advance Super Bike meet recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Romero, who is supported by Azzuro Bistro and Wine Bar and A-toy Custom Paints and Body Kits, is this year's Rookie of the Year.

Welcoat faces Shark for lead

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	1	0
Blu	1	0
Shark	1	0
Dazz	1	0
LBC	1	1
Montaña	1	1
Sunkist	0	1
ICTSI	0	1
John O	0	2

GAMES TODAY (*Pasig Sports Center*)
3 p.m.–Sunkist vs ICTSI-La Salle
5 p.m.–Welcoat vs Cheeseballs/ Shark

By Dennis U. Eroa

THERE'LL be no love lost as bemedalled Welcoat and nemesis Cheeseballs-Shark dispute the early leadership today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

"This is going to be a hard game. I'm sure my former team wants badly to beat my new team to prove that they learned something from me," said coach Leo Austria, who steered Cheeseballs-Shark to two Challenge Cup titles before transferring to Welcoat in the pre-season.

Jing Ruiz, Austria's former assistant, assumed head coaching duties at Cheeseballs-Shark and expressed delight to pit wares with his former mentor.

Still mourning the death of Miguel Gozum, ICTSI-La Salle will try to bounce back after losing to Dazz in the opener as it tackles Sunkist, which will parade former University of Santo Tomas standout Emerson Oreta. ICTSI turned down the bid of James Yap to get his release papers and Yap will not see action for the rest of the conference following a dispute with management.

Gametime between Welcoat and Shark is set at 5 p.m., after the 3 p.m. clash between Sunkist and ICTSI-La Salle.

Ex-jet skier leads kart cast

TOP karters take the limelight anew when the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series stages its eighth and penultimate leg on Nov. 16-17 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Former Jet Ski Rider of the Year Jan Jan Gonzales, who drew raves from Cebu City crowd in the last leg, is eyeing a back-to-back win in a bid to strengthen his chances for the Formula SL Light crown in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, WG&A Super Ferry, Bridgestone, Nokia, Zip-zip, ZED and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through chair Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon and general manager Angelo Ver.

But Indy Villalon remains a close threat in the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) as other title contenders Kendrick Sy and Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's PJ Religioso are also aiming to pull surprises to stay in contention.

Another exciting highlight is the battle between Edgesports teammates Jeremy Marquez and Ryan Francisco in the Intercon-A class.

SPORTSWATCH

RP chessers take on Bangladesh

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippine men's team, trying to avoid a lowly finish in the 35th Chess Olympiad, is expected to field its strongest players against Bangladesh Sunday (Monday in Manila) at the close of the biennial meet here. With 29 points after 13 rounds, the Filipinos need a lopsided victory over the Bangladeshis to stand a chance of barging into the Top 20 of the 141-team field. "We will throw everything that we've got, that's for sure," RP team captain Sammy Estimo was quoted as saying. By that, he probably meant fielding in GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor and GM candidate Mark Paragua for the pivotal round. Torre, however, is not in his usual deadly self while Villamayor is coming off a loss, leaving the burden to Antonio and the 18-year-old Paragua. Antonio is still unbeaten after 11 rounds of play and has 7.5 points to show. Paragua also has the same points and can get his second GM result with a win Sunday.

Harrington I ahead of Goosen

SOTOGRANDE, Spain—Padraig Harrington finished one shot ahead of Retief Goosen after the third round of the Volvo Masters Saturday but the South African is still heavily favored to retain the Order of Merit title in the last round. Harrington compiled a 3-over-par 74 as a strong wind made scoring difficult at Valderrama while Goosen, the 2001 US Open champion, soared to his worst round of the week, a 7-over 78. The Irishman was left sharing 43rd place with an 11-over-par total of 224. Goosen was tied for 47th on 225. Bradley Dredge of Wales birdied the last two holes for a 71 to reach a 3-under-par total of 210 for a one-stroke lead over Angel Cabrera and Colin Montgomerie. Cabrera, who shot 63 in the opening round of the season-ending tournament, soared to a 76 in tough, windy conditions on the Valderrama course. Montgomerie carded a 72. *AP*

Serena-Jennifer semis arranged

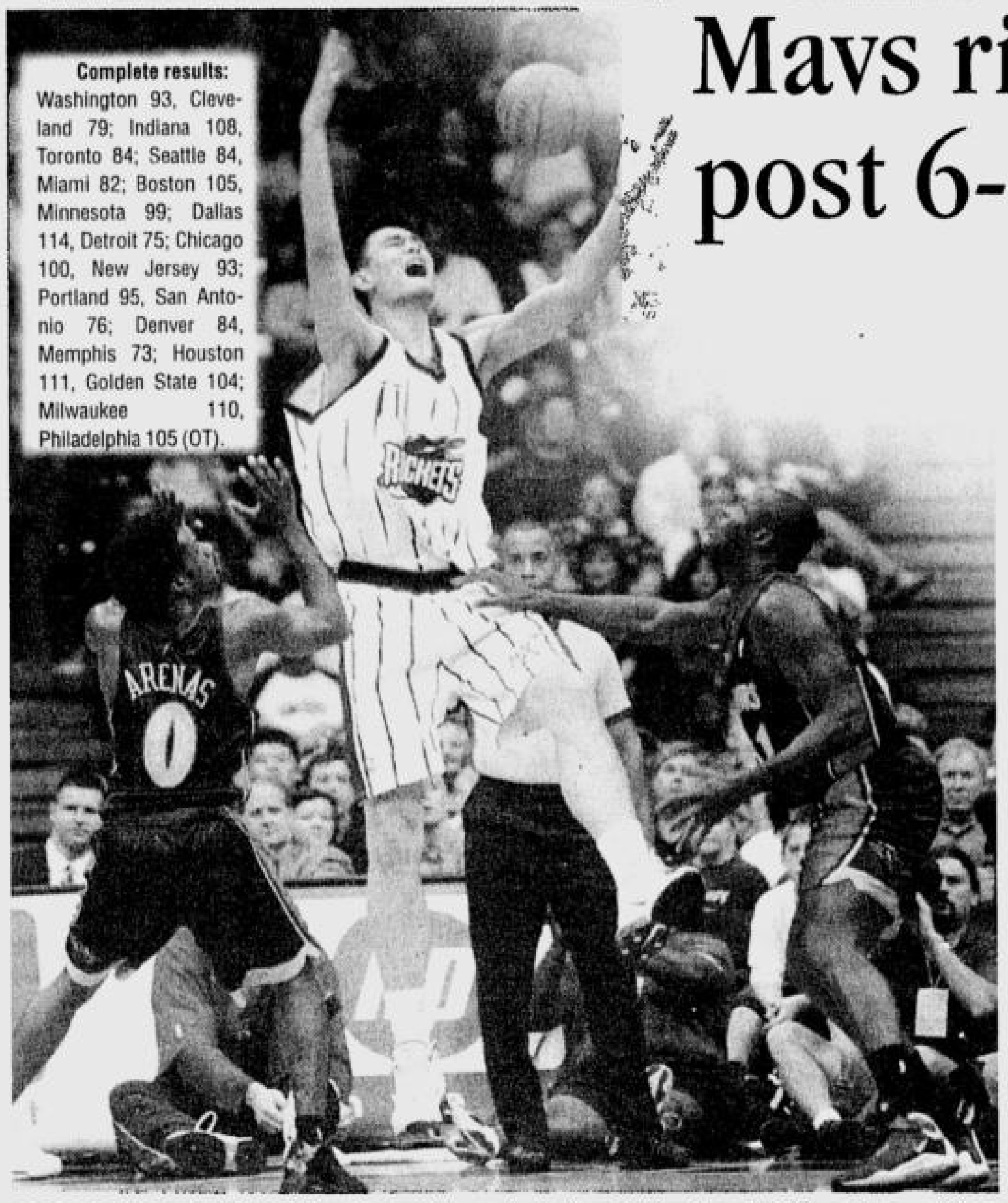
LOS ANGELES—World number one Serena Williams pounded a weary Jelena Dokic 7-6, 6-0 on Saturday to move into the semifinals of the $3 million WTA Championships and towards a possible season-ending showdown with her sister Venus. Looking to cap a memorable year by adding a second WTA title to three grand slam wins, defending champion Serena next meets third seed Jennifer Capriati, who booked her place in the last four with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 win over unseeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva. Sunday's other semifinal will pit Venus Williams, who lost to her younger sister in this season's Wimbledon, French and US Open finals, against fifth seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium. *Reuters*

Sorenstam captures Classic

OTSU, Japan—Annika Sorenstam of Sweden fired a 5-under 67 Sunday to win the Mizuno Classic and capture her 10th LPGA Tour victory of the year and 12th worldwide title. Sorenstam, who went into Sunday's final round with a one-stroke lead, knocked down five birdies and an eagle against a double bogey at the Seta course for a 54-hole total of 15-under 201. South Korea's Grace Park finished two strokes back at 13-under 203 after a 68 while compatriot Se Ri Pak was a further stroke back after firing a 67. *AP*

Gay Games boost Sydney tourism

SYDNEY—Organizers of the Gay Games on Sunday hailed the event's outstanding success, not only in overcoming initial financial problems but in providing a needed boost to Sydney tourism. The games, which ended with a glitter-ball festooned closing ceremony Saturday night that stretched into the early hours of Sunday, attracted 13,000 competitors and 25,000 spectators to the city, which has the largest gay community in the world outside San Francisco. *AFP*



Complete results:
Washington 93, Cleveland 79; Indiana 108, Toronto 84; Seattle 84, Miami 82; Boston 105, Minnesota 99; Dallas 114, Detroit 75; Chicago 100, New Jersey 93; Portland 95, San Antonio 76; Denver 84, Memphis 73; Houston 111, Golden State 104; Milwaukee 110, Philadelphia 105 (OT).

HOUSTON Rockets' Yao Ming (center) loses the ball as Golden State's Gilbert Arenas (0) and Adonal Foyle apply pressure. The Rockets won 111-104. AFP

Mavs rip Pistons, post 6-0 record

DALLAS—Michael Finley had 25 points to propel the Dallas Mavericks, the NBA's last remaining unbeaten team, to a crushing 114-75 victory over the Detroit Pistons Saturday.

Rick Nash collected 17 points and 10 assists for Dallas, an NBA-best 6-0 to start the season. Eduardo Najera added 16 points while Shawn Bradley had 14 and Dirk Nowitzki 12 for the Mavericks, who piled up a 52-point lead at one stage.

Rockets 111, Warriors 104

In Houston, the Rockets celebrated the career of Hakeem Olajuwon in grand style, downing the Golden State Warriors 111-104.

Olajuwon's No. 34 jersey was retired at the half and the Rockets helped make his night complete with the win, led by Steve Francis' 31 points.

Bucks 110, 76ers 105 (OT)

In Milwaukee, Tim Thomas had 21 points and Ray Allen added 20 as the Bucks edged the Philadelphia 76ers 110-105 in overtime.

Michael Redd, Sam Cassell and Toni Kukoc all had 16 points for Milwaukee (3-3) as the Bucks ended Philadelphia's four-game winning streak.

Wizards 93, Cavs 79

In Cleveland, Jerry Stackhouse had 27 points as the Washington Wizards defeated the Cavaliers for the second time in a week, 93-79.

Michael Jordan played a season-high 31 minutes for the Wizards, scoring 12 points, eight of them in the fourth quarter.

Reuters

Hakeem 'The Dream' bids farewell to NBA

OLAJUWON

HOUSTON—Hakeem Olajuwon came to the United States from Nigeria as a gangly 7-foot (2.1-meter) teenager, developing an affinity for ice cream and a taste for winning championships.

The Houston Rockets thanked Olajuwon for the ride Saturday night, retiring his No. 34 in a halftime ceremony during their game against the Golden State Warriors.

Olajuwon, 39, played 17 seasons with the Rockets, leading them to consecutive NBA championships in 1994 and 1995. He was a 12-time All-Star, the league MVP in 1994 and the Defensive Player of the Year in 1993 and 1994.

Olajuwon, dubbed "The Dream" early in his career, froze opponents with his arsenal, including his graceful Dream Shake, a turnaround, fall-away jumper that was almost impossible to stop.

"I don't know where Dream came from, but my life has been a dream," Olajuwon said. "The people of Houston have been so supportive."

Olajuwon finished his career as the NBA leader in blocked shots with 3,830. He averaged 21.8 points and 11.1 rebounds and had a career total of 2,162 steals. His production dropped to 7.1 points and six rebounds last season in 61 games with the Toronto Raptors. *AP*

Partners for all time

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ONE reason that led to the tremendous success of the annual Breeders' Cup under the aegis of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners is the support provided by the private sector.

"We are honored to host again this premier horse racing event in partnership with San Miguel Beer," said Marho president and Breeders' Cup founder Aristeo "Putch" Puyat. "For truly, the SMB Marho is a long-lasting tie-up, an ideal marriage solid as rock based on mutual respect and sincerity. It is an excellent example of the private sector contributing to the development of Philippine Sports in general and horse racing in particular." This year's seventh edition of the Breeders' Cup is set for Nov. 13-17 at the vastly improved Santa Ana Park.

Patterned after the fabled Breeders' Cup of the United States, the Philippine version was launched in grand fashion in 1996 by Puyat in tandem with Marho chair Leonardo "Sandy" Javier of Andok's fame. Through the years, the Breeders' Cup has become the country's richest and hottest racing event chiefly because of the joint efforts by the Puyat-Javier team-up and racing heartthrob Hermie Esguerra, three guys with the zeal, grit and heart for sports.

The fact that it is now on its seventh year is proof enough that the Breeders' Cup has attained its objective, thanks to the unshakeable faith of Marho members and officials; the generous support of giant beer conglomerate San Miguel Corp. headed by boss Danding Cojuangco and, last but not the least, the patronage and confidence of the racing public.

For this year, a total of P7 million will be at stake. Featured are six major races, including Sunday's centerpiece Breeders' Cup Classic covering a distance of P2,050 meters where Hermie Esguerra's multi-awarded "Wind Blown" is leading the star-studded cast that includes "Batangas Entry," Lyonnais and "Staunch Ally."

ONE IN A MILLION. Would you believe that Mel Lopez, former Philippine Sports Commission chair and Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, did not touch a single centavo of taxpayers' money in all his trips abroad during his long years as a sports official and public servant? He could have , but he did not take advantage of his position and avail of the free trips because "there are other people who need the chance to travel and improve their lives." The government did not spend for his foreign trips when he was Manila councilor, mayor and assemblyman, which is a rarity, given the propensity of many of those in the government service to travel at taxpayers' expense.

Cavite Coliseum hosts ₱2-M int'l derby

REGARDED as one of the classiest cockfighting centers in the country, Cavite Coliseum will celebrate its 12th Anniversary on Dec. 2, 4 and 6 by staging the Cavite 7-Cock International Derby with Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Parañaque as sponsors.

According to pit manager Roger del Rosario, Cavite Coliseum has 150 cockhouses, in-house restaurants, big parking area and 24 air-conditioned hotel rooms.

Part of the derby's proceeds will be donated by host Sen. Ramon Revilla to the Philippine Mental Health. Derby co-hosts are former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado and Lito Orillaza.

At stake is a guaranteed prize of P2 million while entry fee is P30,000. Derby starts at 7 p.m. sharp.

For more details, contact Ferdie Bautista at 0918-5674921.

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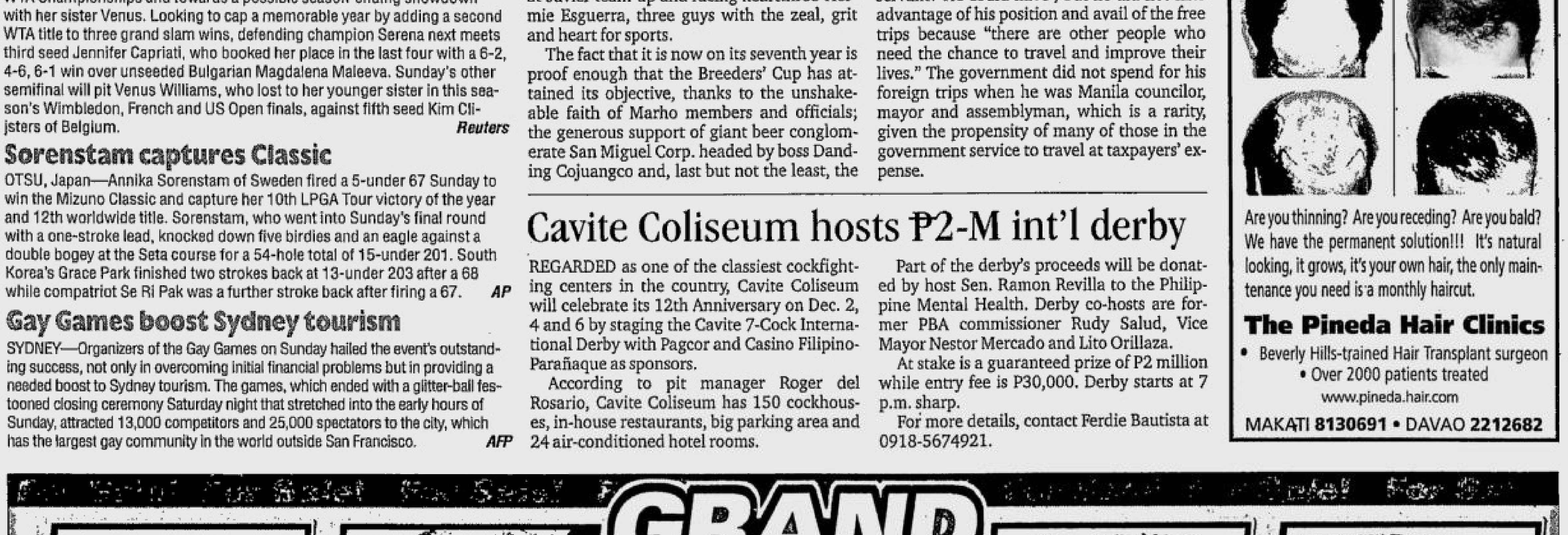
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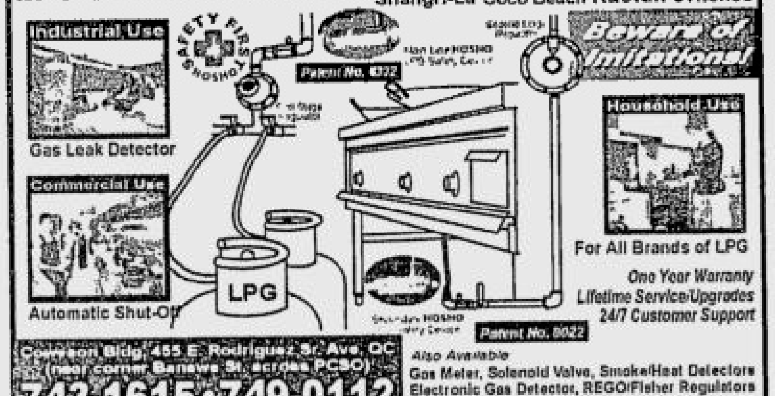

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SPORTSTV

Compiled by
L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Atlanta vs Sacramento, 10 a.m., Solar Sports, LA Clippers vs Orlando Magic, 7 p.m., IBC 13

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Primetime, 8:30 a.m., ESPN

NFL - Miami Dolphins vs New York Jets, 9:30 a.m., ESPN

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour, 9 p.m. (r), Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour Championship 2002, 10 p.m. (r), Star Sports

BILLIARDS: 2002 Trick-shot Magic, 3 p.m. (r), ESPN

ALL-FILIPINO CUP

Red Bull frustrates SMB

By June Navarro

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

NELSON Asaytono lived up to expectations as he delivered the winning basket that lifted Batang Red Bull to a heart-stopping 75-74 overtime victory over San Miguel Beer last night in the Selecta-PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

With 22 ticks to go, the bull-strong Asaytono powered his way against Dondon Hontiveros inside the paint and made a difficult turnaround shot that propelled the Thunder to a 4-0 win-loss record, a franchise record since they joined the league in 2000.

"Nelson showed that hardwork really pays off. He has proven his worth and I'm rewarding him with ample playing time," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao of the 6-foot-4 power forward who trimmed his weight to 235 pounds.

The Beermen absorbed their second defeat in four games.

Guiao's wards also registered their sixth consecutive overtime win dating back to the 2001 All-Filipino Cup.

The Thunder could have won the thrilling match in regulation but Mick Pennisi flubbed two free throws with 22.6 seconds left.

Earlier, Paolo Mendoza sparkled as Sta. Lucia Realty hurdled Shell, 65-57.

Mendoza's brilliance in the dying moments kept the Realtors together as they broke a two-game slump and created a tie that enabled five teams to share identical 2-2 records.

Mendoza drilled five three-pointers and erupted for 25 points, nine of which came when the Realtors stopped the rampaging Turbo Chargers on their tracks.

The Turbo Chargers, who dropped their third game in four outings, outrebounded their overwhelmingly taller foes, grabbing 42 rebounds against the Realtors 33 caroms.

Scores:

STA. LUCIA 65—Mendoza 25, Ejercito 12, Aulno 10, Francisco 6, Tan 6, Ortiguerra 4, Falcasantos 2, Espino 0, Del Rosario 0, Rodriguez 0.

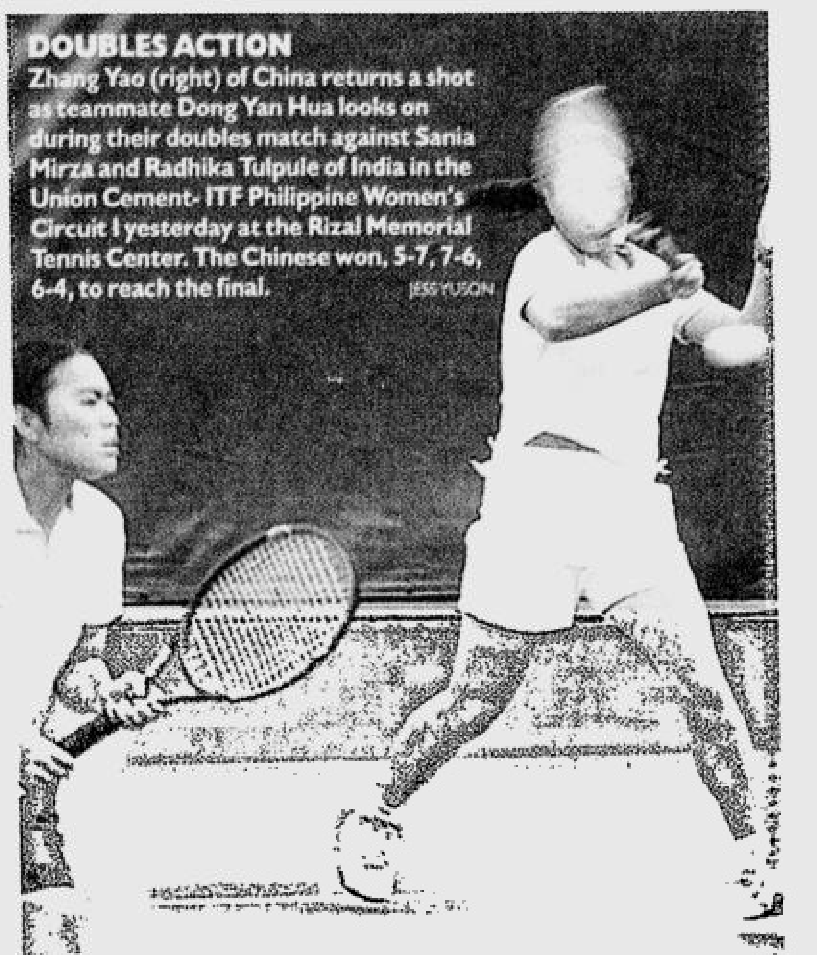
SHELL 57—Calaguio 13, Hrabak 12, Singson 10, Jackson 8, Bacani 7, Sison 3, De la Cruz 2, Del Rosario 2, Esplana 0, Marzan 2, Wainwright 0.

Quarters: 18-8, 32-34, 46-38, 65-57.

RED BULL 75—Harp 20, Pennisi 17, Asaytono 16, Valenzuela 10, Miller 6, Reyes 2, Tugade 2, Mendoza 2, Villoria 0, Locsin 0.

SMB 74—Belasco 20, Ildefonso 14, Pena 11, Hontiveros 10, Gahol 6, Mente 5, Victoria 5, Racela 3, Gamboa 0, Lago 0.

Quarters: 17-17, 30-35, 48-53, 69-69, 75-74.



DOUBLES ACTION
Zhang Yao (right) of China returns a shot as teammate Dong Yan Hua looks on during their doubles match against Sania Mirza and Radhika Tulpule of India in the Union Cement- ITF Philippine Women's Circuit I yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The Chinese won, 5-7, 7-6, 6-4, to reach the final. JESS YUSON

Ateneo netter wins, gains Jr tilt semis

ATENEO'S Mark Balce subdued La Salle-Zobel's Edwin Olivarez Jr., 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, last Saturday to reach the boys' 12-under semifinals of the PCA Open Juniors Tennis Championships at the PCA outdoor courts.

Balce will met Xavier's Joshua Tan Ho, who defeated Justin Echague, 6-3, 6-2.

Also advancing were Gerard Michael Ngo, who won over Jeffrey Villanueva, 1-6, 6-3, 3-0 (ret.), and Patrick Arevalo, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Jonathan Murrell.

In the girls' 14-under division, Bambi Zoleta outplayed Mari Altiche, 6-0, 6-1, to advance in the semifinals against Jessica Agra while Trudy Amoranto clobbered Isabelle Culaba, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Julie Em Botor.

In the unisex 10-under class, Bernardine Siso blasted Joan Opulencia, 6-0, 6-0, Akio Sy whipped Noel Antonio Agra, 6-0, 6-1, Sarah Jane Lim demolished Juan Gabriel Pena, 6-0, 6-0 and Joseph Baldonado rallied past Paul Nicole Magaway, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0, to book semifinal berths in this event supported by Dunlop, Accel, PVL Little Lawrence, Pagcor, Stronghold, Las Palmas, Sun Village, Banco de Oro and Ace Hardware.

Meanwhile, Christian Canlas downed Ogie Reynoso, 6-1, 6-4, to set up a quarterfinal showdown with Bryan Dayleg, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Patrick Arevalo, in the boys' 14-under division. Other winners were Daniel Macalino, Johnwill Baldonado, Martin Ramos, Russell Arcilla Jr., James Murrell and Pablo Olivarez Jr.

Gaining quarterfinal slots in the boys' 16-under division were Jandrick de Castro, James Murrell, Russell Arcilla Jr., Jimmy Tangalin, Christian Canlas, Kyle Dandan, Daniel Macalino and Nestor Celestino.

In the boys's 18-under class, Nico Rico de Dios defeated Michael Frencillo to join yannick Guba, Joseph Arcilla, Irwin de Guzman and Gino Bautista in the second round.

Tuason Memorial Cup set

THE THIRD Arthur Tuason Memorial Cup Karting Championships will be held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

The event, held in memory of car racing legend Arthur Tuason, hopes to discover another batch of young future champions.

A top prize of P40,000 plus Drive Mag Wheels will be at stake in the Bridgestone KT Novice class of the kartfest sponsored by Bridgestone Tyres, Hanjin Shipping, Carmona Circuit Philippines, Alaska Fresh, drive Concept Wheels, Trapik.com and Magic 89.9.

Drive Mag Wheels will be awarded to the runner-up while the third placer will get gift packs.

The Alaska Fresh Cadet class, on the other hand, is open to kids who have the potential to go up to higher disciplines like F1. The champion in this class will be awarded the race sponsorship for 2003 while the runner-up and third places will be given gift packs and trophies.

Proceeds of the event will go to the Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment which has already received more than P100,000 donation for the past two years.

For further details, interested parties may call up the Tuason Racing Project at 531-2962 or may visit its website at www.tuasonracing.com.

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Richard Sinfuego (second from left) receives his trophy and symbolic check as champion of the third leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit at the Canlubang north course. Also shown (from left) are S.P. Malbarosa, circuit secretariat and media relations head; Canlubang manager Oscar Papa; Ramon A. Santiago, manager for external affairs affairs of San Miguel Beer; and Tom Clemente of the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

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Another Chinese hunted

'Operations man of drug ring'

By Christian V. Esguerra

ANOTHER Chinese is being hunted down by police in connection with the Nov. 1 raid on a shabu laboratory in Parañaque City.

The Chinese who goes by different names is believed to be the operations man of the syndicate that manufactured shabu at a Barangay Sun Valley mansion, according to Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District director.

Like principal suspect, Xuzi Bin Ong, the new suspect is an undocumented alien, the SPD chief said, quoting reports from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

Gutierrez said that the suspect's name appeared on the contract for the lease of the house owned by Teddy Monasterio, where the shabu laboratory was located.

A check with a Manila bank showed that the Chinese used another name to open his account, he said.

The Chinese supposedly paid the P70,000 rent of the Monasterio house through checks which he allegedly signed with his false signatures, Gutierrez added.

"The case is really complicated," Gutierrez yesterday told the INQUIRER. "Our immediate goal is to establish the real identities of the suspects."

Only after the identities of the Chinese suspects are ascertained would the police be able to establish the drug syndicate's Filipino connections, Gutierrez said.

The SPD, BID, and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency are working on the drug case which authorities had described as much bigger than the operations on drug laboratories in San Juan and Quezon City a few months ago.

Xuzi had been arrested hours before the mansion on Hemlock Street, Executive Heights Village was raided last Nov. 1. He immediately tagged a certain Mr. and Mrs. Lee as the supposed lease holders of the house.

But Gutierrez said Xuzi could have floated those names simply to mislead the investigation.

BIG BLUR
For many Filipinos, the prospects of a merry Christmas this year are dim, unlike the bright, multi-colored lights that go with the lanterns sold at a roadside stall in New Manila, Quezon City, where this mother with her child keep watch.

JOAN BONDOC

■ Increase in Manila crime rate alarming, says dad /A26

■ What Erap thinks of the GMA government /A26

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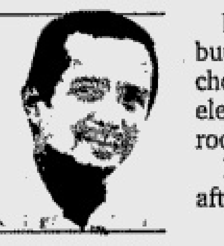
What Erap thinks of the GMA government

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

DID I really visit and talk to Erap Estrada in his detention suite?

Is there anything un-Christian about visiting a prisoner?

Anyway, to those genuinely interested about the state of Mr. Estrada's health, the man indeed appeared in the pink of health. He was both handsome and bubbly he could have walked straight into a movie set with no need whatsoever of make-up.

But you need not be a physician to conclude that his diseased, disobedient knees need immediate medical attention, surgery if you please.

Erap had to limp around the garage-like receiving area of the suite to attend to a stream of visitors which, based on the list being kept by a military guard, averaged more than 70 people a day.

***

No cell phones, no media people, no visitors after 5 p.m.

This visitor managed to squeeze in by tagging along Bening Urquico, who brought in curacha all the way from Davao.

Detention is supposed to break the prisoner's resolve, but Erap was an inspiring sight.

He was both witty and sharp.

Of course, the man could make use of a little sunshine, a little fresh air every now and then.

Erap, however, said he was not being allowed to take a peep outside the detention suite at the Veteran's Medical Center in Quezon City.

***

So how did he manage to stay fit and fresh?

He does some stretching, mainly in the morning.

Erap also did not hide the fact that he uses a portable sauna machine to sweat it out in his room.

Yes, he said, he now has to take sleeping pills in order to complete a good night's rest.

He did not look a bit terrified but he confirmed that he could've choked to death if the recent electrical fire that hit his bedroom had struck past midnight.

He said he usually hits the bed after 1 a.m.

***

Television has been providing him great company.

He said he enjoyed tremendously the NBN coverage of the Busan Asian Games, mainly the RP-Korea basketball match.

The man has remained a very colorful conversationalist.

No, he said, he was not originally close to FPJ, Fernando Peo Jr., King of Philippine Movies.

Erap, however, confided that he inevitably had to link up with FPJ after they started to be targeted by a big syndicate which tried to extort money from them in the early '60s.

The duo has become the closest and best of *compadres* ever since.

***

Look, he said, he was a mere (third year) college dropout but he felt he was more than qualified for the presidency than other professionals, economists and asserted degree holders.

Why?

Because he repeatedly graduated from the university of life through the roles he had played in the movies.

He swore he had thoroughly studied and penetrated all the characters he had played, from *sorbetero*, rebel leader, gangster, activist, name it, he had done it.

He also said his *kumpadre*, FPJ, would be unbeatable in a presidential election. He said FPJ is twice as popular as he is.

But hold it. Erap, now looking grim, said a presidential election is not what the Philippines needs.

Things have hopelessly gotten out of hand under the present dispensation and what's needed to correct the terrible mess is a firmer, stronger form of government. Democracy has been rendered inutile under GMA.

Erap, the prisoner, refused to elaborate.

You can it see all for yourself, he said.

Increase in Manila crime rate alarming, says dad

By Philip C. Tubeza

"THE WESTERN Police District is barking up the wrong tree," Manila Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing said.

Bagatsing was referring to WPD Director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong's accomplishment report for his first 100 days in office.

The councilor said that while the city police solved 95 percent of the crimes that happened during that period, it is alarming to hear that the number of crimes rose by more than 40 percent.

BAGATSING

FILE PHOTO

"If the number of crimes is growing, you can't say that you are successfully fighting criminality," Bagatsing said.

"The safer solution is to be more proactive rather than just being reactive," he added.

Bulaong had reported that 1,007 of the 1,059 criminal cases that took place between July 29 and Nov. 8 had been solved.

He had also noted that no robbery or kidnapping happened in Manila during that period.

The 95.09 percent crime solution efficiency rate during Bulaong's first 100 days was a little higher than the 94.94 percent registered in the same period last year, when Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos was still at the helm of the WPD.

Index crimes—such as murder, robbery with homicide and other heinous crimes—rose by 13.21 percent, but 95 percent of them were solved, Bulaong said.

But Bagatsing said that if the WPD is really successful in its anti-crime drive, then "we should see a decrease in crime in the next six months."

He said that while Bulaong is already starting to do a good job by deploying more detectives, the police should focus more on crime prevention.

Woman's tricycle dream may soon become reality

By Jerome Aning

AFTER a four-year wait, a Manila resident who wants to ban pedicabs without loud horns and signal lights from the city's streets might soon get her wish.

Since 1998, Malate denizen Lutgarda Javier has been writing the city's executive and legislative departments requesting officials to ban such pedicabs. She has written the departments about eight times.

Finally, a draft proposal of the ban has been approved by the city council's transportation committee.

The bill, authored by 6th district Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. awaits second reading, where it would be discussed and scrutinized by the entire council.

If the ordinance is approved, violators would be fined P1,000 or jailed for up to a month, or both.

The committee report noted that many street accidents have been caused by vehicles that sideswipe pedestrians.

It said quarrels often take place when reckless drivers splash pedestrians with water or mud from potholes, or hit and damage cars parked along the streets.

"Motorized vehicles and pedicabs are the commuters' beasts of burden," the report said. "However, they have proven to be a bane to public safety."

Javier first wrote the council about tricycles and pedicabs that do not have horns and signal lights on Sept. 21, 1998. She wrote another letter to the mayor on Oct. 5, 1999.

When both letters were not acted on, she wrote the council again on Jan. 13, 2000.

The letter was forwarded to then city administrator Antonio Fernando, who said there is already an ordinance and that the guidelines are just waiting for final approval.

Javier wrote another letter dated May 2 of the same year, asking when the guidelines would be implemented.

On Oct. 16, she wrote new city administrator Ernesto Dionisio asking for the guidelines.

Javier also reminded City Hall of her demands via dzMM's radio segment "Hoy Gising!" on Nov. 29.

She wrote her final letter to the council last Sept. 10.

During committee deliberations, Logarta said it is "exasperating that this simple yet valid complaint by an elderly constituent cannot be even attended to by the council."

DILG recognizes barangay league head

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of the Interior and Local Government recognizes, for now, the Manila barangay league president who was elected under rules formulated by the city council.

In a letter to Mayor Lito Atienza dated Oct. 15, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina said the ordinance laying down the new rules "enjoys the presumption of regularity until declared invalid by the proper court."

Lina said his office would also investigate the DILG's Manila director, Ma. Rhodora Licudine, whom Atienza wanted sacked for supporting barangay chairs who refused to recognize the ordinance.

Led by the outgoing league president, Natalio Beltran III, the "renegade" chairs held their own election on Oct. 21, resulting in Beltran's reelection.

Beltran said the ordinance is illegal because it modified the Local Government Code, which says the league chief should be elected by all chairs.

The City Hall-recognized league president, Carlos Castañeda, was elected last Sept. 15 by the six district league presidents, as provided under the ordinance.

Beltran and his allies filed lawsuits in connection with the controversy before the Manila Regional Trial Court and the Supreme Court, which have yet to render any decision.

Castañeda, meanwhile, was admitted to the council, which is dominated by Atienza's allies. But opposition councilors as well as Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna refused to recognize Castañeda.

Atienza said that Lacuna, as the council's presiding officer, should now direct the payment of the salary of Castañeda.

Beltran and his staff were recently ejected from the league office on the City Hall's fifth floor.

Atienza said Lina's letter, in effect, serves notice to everyone concerned to respect the results of the Sept. 15 election.

Abalos recommends dismissal of 2 cops

By Nelson F. Flores

FOR TESTING positive in a drug test, two rookie Mandaluyong policemen might lose their jobs.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday recommended the dismissal from the service of the two new policemen, whom he did not identify.

Abalos said the policemen, who are both police officers 1, "don't deserve a place in the police force and should be immediately booted out."

Citing the findings of Mandaluyong Medical City director Dr. Alfredo Lo, Abalos said that the urine specimen of the two policemen showed 4,938 and 3,000 nanograms of metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, respectively. The cut-off amount is 1,000 nanograms.

Under the law, the two policemen can either submit themselves to at least six months of drug rehabilitation or leave the police service.

The drug tests were conducted last Oct. 28 without any warning while 166 members of the city's police force were attending an anti-terrorist seminar.

Abalos said that 90 more local policemen would undergo drug testing, followed by the 2,300 city hall employees.

Emission test centers suffering big losses, say owners

THE VEHICLE emission testing centers put up by the private sector are incurring heavy losses because of the delay in the full implementation of the Clean Air Act, according to several owners of private emission testing centers, or PETCs.

In a statement, the owners cited a severe lack of volume to compensate for their huge expenses in rent or lease and the salaries of their workers.

The private sector put up the PETCs as provided for in the Clean Air Act of 1999.

The owners said the capital requirement for each PETC easily runs to millions of pesos since each lane costs at least P2 million.

But more formidable than the huge capital requirements are the risks that a PETC investor has to take, they said.

Jim Velez, a PETC owner in Marikina City, said: "We were required to build the facilities first and invest at least P2 million per lane even without any assurance that we would be accredited by the Department of Trade and Industry and subsequently authorized by the Department of Transportation and Communication."

Velez said it took him more than two to three months to get the approval of both agencies. All that time, however, he had to pay the lease of the land, the salaries of his workers, and other maintenance costs, he said.

"The delay in the implementation of the Clean Air Act is aggravating our losses even further," Velez said.

Another PETC owner, George Bian, noted the lack of any government-imposed limits to the number of PETCs that could be put up by the private sector.

"This means that a PETC owner may just suddenly end up competing with so many other PETCs mushrooming in his area, thus further reducing not only his own business volume but also those of his competitors," Bian said.

"If that happens, we may all have to close shop, leaving no PETC around to do the testing of vehicles.

"As if our predicament is not enough, PETC owners are allowed only a very short period to operate and recover their investments since the PETC's function is supposed to be taken over in 2003 by Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS) facilities," Bian added.

New Nayon to rise in controversial site

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORCED to close to give way to a controversial airport terminal, the Nayong Pilipino theme park will rise again on a similarly controversial government property.

The new theme park is expected to have its groundbreaking within six months at a 20-hectare reclamation area of the Public Estates Authority in Pasay City, said Nayon executive director Charito Planas.

"The President didn't want the Nayong Pilipino to die under her administration," Planas told the INQUIRER.

The 30-year-old theme park was forced to close and boot out about 50 concessionaires and 60 workers last June to give way to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The closure came after Nayon officials ceded control of the park to the Manila International Airport Authority for about P500 million.

Planas said the Nayon board of directors is now coordinating with PEA officials and other government agencies for the acquisition of the PEA property near Roxas Boulevard.

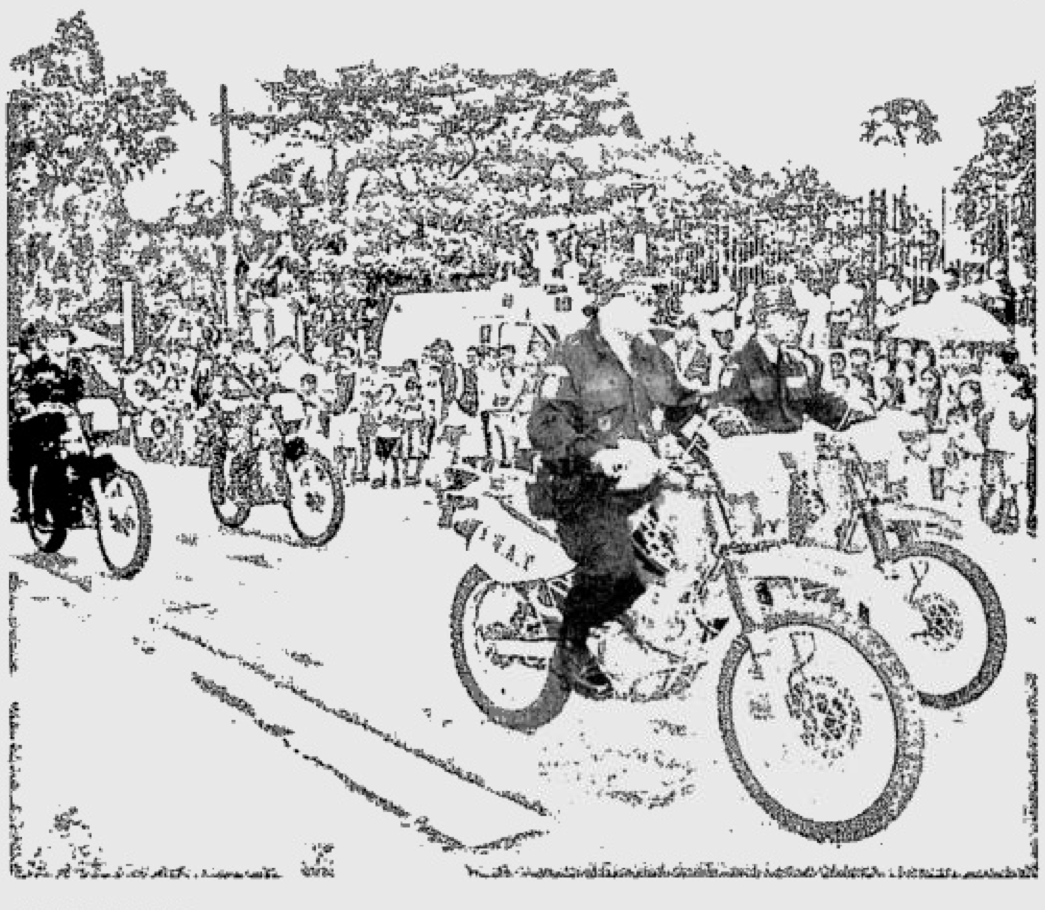
The new theme park would use the winning structural plan designed by University of Santo Tomas students early this year, Planas said.

But she added that adjustments would have to be made since the plan was designed for the original 46-hectare Nayong Pilipino.

The new site has only about 20 hectares.

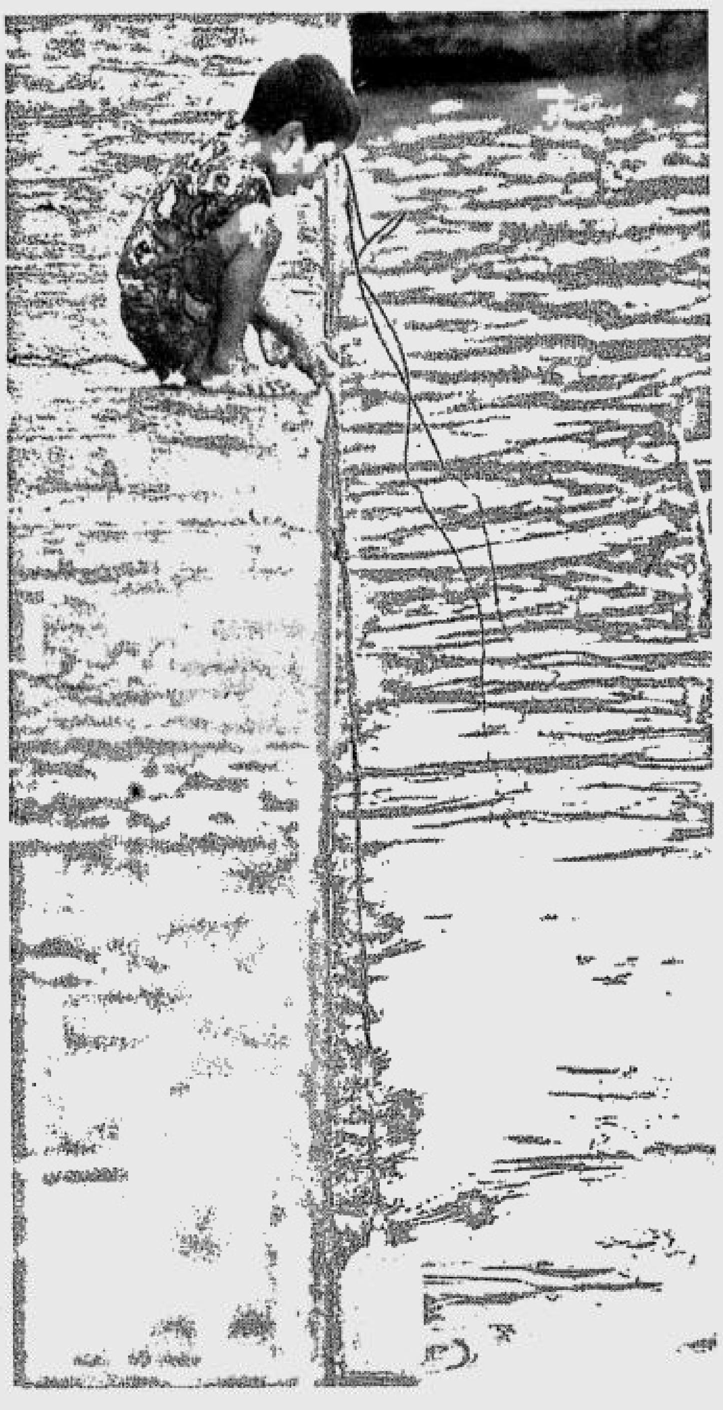
CHRISTMAS EXPO

Emily Montenegro-Yupangco and her sister, presidential daughter-in-law Angela Montenegro-Arroyo (left and center) were among the thousands who visited the recent Noel Discovery Bazaar at the World Trade Center. With the sisters is bazaar project director Mayose Gozon-Bautista. The Noel bazaar will be held Nov. 13-15 at the Enterprise Center in Makati. On Nov. 23-24, it's the turn of Christmas @2002 Shop Expo. For details, call 687-0654 or 687-2955.



SWAT BIKES

Members of the San Juan police Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) team show off the four motorcycles that San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito recently donated to the team. The mayor said peace and order is part of his "5Ks" program, which stands for Katahimikan, Kalinisan, Kalusugan, Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (peace, cleanliness, health, livelihood and progress).



WATER BOY
A boy uses a plastic container, a rope and imagination to fetch water from a broken water pipe jutting out of the concrete bank of the Pasig River, for the use of his family in Binondo, Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

‘Extortion’ at the toll gate‘

By Christian V. Esguerra

RESIDENTS of a Parañaque subdivision are under fire for collecting toll for the use of a national road.

Two months ago, the Multinational Village Homeowners Association began collecting fees from motorists who use Kaingin Road which links barangays Moonwalk and Merville to Imelda Avenue, according to Rep. Eduardo Zialcita.

He said a toll gate had been erected and motorists who want to pass through Kaingin Road are forced to pay P20 for tricycles and private vehicles, and P150 for trucks and heavy vehicles.

"This is clearly extortion," Zialcita yesterday told the INQUIRER.

"They have no business collecting fees since Kaingin is a public road, not a private road."

He alleged that village security guards poke their guns at motorists who refuse to pay road fees.

The congressman said that last Thursday, he himself had been "victimized" by the supposed racket.

He said he filed a complaint before the city police against Multinational security officials for "continuously extorting money from many vehicles... including hundreds of tricycles."

Zialcita identified the officers as Edwin Abalgos and George Magtanong of Fuentes Security Agency and Romulo Naredo and Romulo Mancao of the Multinational Security Committee.

The lawmaker last night was set to meet with tricycle drivers and other motorists complaining against the collection of fees.

He said they would file charges against the Multinational Village Homeowners Association before the Parañaque Regional Trial Court and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board this week.

Man who got death threat found dead

By Philip C. Tubeza

A GRUESOME sight greeted Exequila Corpuz as she was about to go to Mass yesterday morning.

She found her son-in-law Beinvenido C. Batac, 51, stabbed to death and lying bloodied on a sofa in their home along Jesus Extension in Pandacan, said Detective Diomedes Labarda of the Western Police District homicide section.

Batac had 15 stab wounds, one of which was in the face, police said.

Police identified the suspect but were still investigating reports that Batac had complained of receiving death threats due to an unpaid debt, said Labarda.

A few days before Batac was killed, he told his mother-in-law that someone had called him on the phone and threatened to kill him.

Pandacan barangay chair Domingo Seposo also told police that on March 10, Batac had filed a complaint before his office against a certain Antonio Tarrobal for "grave threat."

Police said Batac allegedly owed Tarrobal money, which he was not able to pay.

Tarrobal allegedly threatened Batac if he failed to pay.

At 5:30 a.m. yesterday, Corpuz found Batac dead in his room as she was preparing to go to Mass.

Labarda said the victim had 14 stab wounds in the chest and one in the face. He added that police were still looking for witnesses who might have seen Batac's assailant.

3 killed, 3 injured in 2 Manila accidents

By Philip Tubeza

THREE PEOPLE were killed and three others were injured in two road accidents in Manila yesterday.

Dead were Diana Francisco, 19, and Cristobal Coo, 22, both of the same address in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City.

The third dead victim remained unidentified and was described as 30 to 35 years old, 5-foot-2, and wearing denim shorts and long sleeves, said SPO4 Mar Sakdalan, of the Western Police District traffic section.

The unidentified man's legs and arms were severed after several vehicles ran over him in Tondo, Sakdalan said.

The policeman identified the injured as Moemi Jaudian, 26, Jonelyn Atacador, 23, and Randy de la Cruz, 19.

He said the first accident, which led to Francisco and Coo's deaths, happened at about 10:30 a.m. on the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard.

Francisco and Coo and the three others were on board a white Mitsubishi L-300 van (WAW-106). When they reached the Marbella building on the boulevard, the van lost its breaks, skidded and then overturned, Sakdalan said.

Coo died on the spot, he said.

The other victims were brought to the Ospital ng Maynila, where Francisco died.

The van's unidentified driver escaped, the policeman said.

The other accident happened at about 1:30 a.m. on R-10 near the Makro supermarket. The unidentified man was apparently crossing the street when a truck hit him. The driver did not stop.

Worse, other trucks also ran over the helpless pedestrian.

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MAKE PEOPLE FORGET

Winona Ryder should do more 'stealing'

GOOD ACTRESS. Winona during an uneventful shopping trip.

LOS ANGELES—To make people forget her conviction for stealing, Winona Ryder will have to steal some scenes—and it certainly would help if she followed Hugh Grant's example.

"(Ryder) needs to prove again that she's a good actress and keep herself in the public eye while making sure this is not the last thing people remember about her," Marla Matzer Rose, marketing reporter for The Hollywood Reporter, said Thursday.

"There will be a short-term effect on the price she's offered to be in pictures," Rose added. "The smart thing to do would be a juicy role in an independent film instead of going for a big, megabucks Hollywood film."

Ryder was convicted Wednesday of felony theft charges for stealing more than $5,500 worth of merchandise at the Beverly Hills Saks Fifth Avenue store last year, and prosecutors said they'll seek probation, community service and restitution.

Wacky aspect

"Her crime itself is not that serious, but it's the wacky aspect that makes people wonder," Rose said.

Grant's appearance on "The Tonight Show" in 1995 shortly after his arrest with a prostitute is considered a prime example of using humor to defuse a scandal. First, he made a public apology and accepted responsibility for his actions—something Ryder has not done.

Ryder's troubles came at a time when her career had been on the downslide—and at an age (31) when she's outgrown many of the youthful roles that made her famous, including "Beetlejuice," "Heathers" and "Edward Scissorhands."

Some of Ryder's most recent projects, including the satanic thriller "Lost Souls," the heartbreak romance "Autumn in New York" and the Hollywood satire "Simone," were box-office disappointments. ("Mr. Deeds" was a hit, but most of the credit went to star Adam Sandler.)

"(Ryder) has always been seen as an ingenue, but she's over 30 now and needs to transition to roles that showcase her as a mature actress," Rose said. "Doing that any time is difficult enough, but doing it while there's this rap on you—that's going to be harder."

Although Ryder does not have a film in the works, she has continued to receive offers, according to her spokesperson, Mara Buxbaum.

"Hollywood is such a forgiving community that, unless it's some sort of heinous crime, the industry is incredibly supportive," Buxbaum added.

Difficulty

Ryder, who received Oscar nominations for 1994's "Little Women" and 1993's "The Age of Innocence," is developing the circus-themed film "Roustabout" with the production firm MDP Worldwide. Company President Mark Damon has said her criminal case would have little effect on the production.

Depending on the details of her probation, however, Ryder could face difficulty traveling to location shoots, which would further limit her options.

Despite speculation that the felony conviction would prevent her films from securing insurance, Ryder will likely be eligible for standard policies.

"This jury decision would not necessarily put the kibosh on any film in which Ms Ryder starred, but it would prompt a lot of questions that only she could answer . . . about likelihood of reoccurrence," said John Kozero of Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., which has worked in the film industry since the 1920s. *AP*

How to execute a near-perfect kidnapping

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

MOVIES and books sometimes provide criminals the nastiest ideas. Tom Clancy wrote two best-sellers about a pilot deliberately flying a fuel-laden jet into the Capitol building to kill the President of the United States and its Congress, in "Debt of Honor" and "Executive Orders." Most people thought the idea highly implausible, until Sept. 11.

Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton's film "Bandits" and James Patterson's book "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue" came up with basically similar plots involving bank robbers who take bank managers and their families hostage in their homes. The idea was probably culled from actual robberies that were executed the same way (one involving a Bank of America branch manger in 1995), but who knows how many more similar robberies the film and the book inspired after they were released.

Now here comes "Trapped," a movie that comes with instructions on the perfect kidnapping scheme.

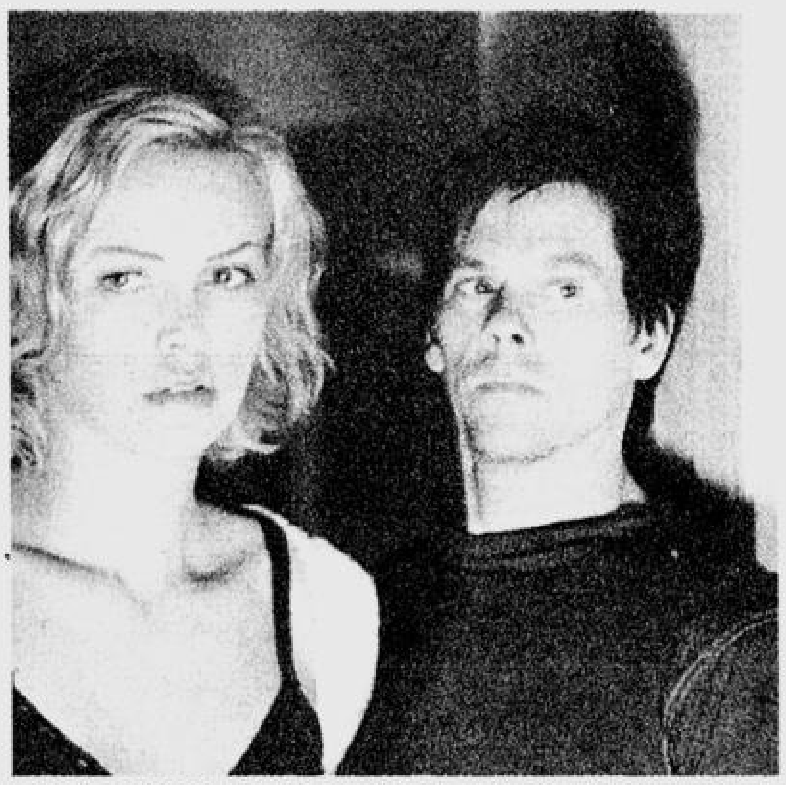
Husband and wife Joe and Cheryl Hickey (Kevin Bacon and Courtney Love), together with their cousin Marvin (Pruitt Taylor Vince), are a kidnapping team that victimizes rich couples who only have one child.

Their modus operandi is brilliantly simple. Joe and Marvin break into the homes of their victims when only the mother and child are at home and the father is off on a trip. Marvin takes the child and hides him or her in some remote location while Joe stays with the mother and asks for the ransom money, aside from other kinky favors, in exchange for the child's safe release.

Meanwhile, Cheryl takes the father hostage.

24 hours

Along with Joe, the mother goes to the bank and wire-transfers the money to her husband who will then hand it over to Cheryl. All this happens in 24 hours or less. The three kidnappers keep in touch with each other every 30 minutes through their cell phones. If one of them fails to make a call, Marvin will kill the child. This ensures the full cooperation of the parents.



PSYCHOSEXUAL GAMES. Charlize Theron plays a fighting mom vs Kevin Bacon's kidnapper.

The scheme has so far been foolproof. The Hickeys have terrorized four perfect families without a hitch. The keys to its success are the absence of a ransom drop (the FBI always gets the kidnappers at the ransom drop, Joe explains), and the kidnappers grab not just the child but also the parents, thus keeping the cops out of the picture.

The parents get their kid back and the Hickeys walk away with the money. Everybody's happy.

But we already know there's an "until" to this story because the film's advertising pitch says, "It was the perfect crime, until she refused to be the perfect victim." "She" is Karen Jennings (Charlize Theron), a feisty lioness of a mom. It's obvious that Karen and her husband, Dr. Will Jennings (Stuart Townsend from "Queen of the Damned"), a famous anesthesiologist, and their adorable asthmatic daughter Abby (played perfectly by Dakota Fanning from "I Am Sam") will create all sorts of problems for the Hickeys' perfect scheme.

Novelty

Based on "24 Hours," the best selling book by Greg Iles (who also wrote the screenplay) and directed by Luis Mandoki ("Angel Eyes" and "Message in a Bottle"), "Trapped," for most of its running time, sustains an atmosphere of finely wrought menace despite the fact that its advertising pitch tips its hand.

Watching a family live out the hell of their child's abduction is supposed to be scary, but here we already know young Abby isn't going to die, that her parents will come out victorious in the end, and to top it all, we know the kidnappers' identities right from the beginning.

This thriller should have been a yawner because of its predictability. The reason why it isn't is the novelty of the parents and the kidnappers' interactions, some deft pacing and camera work, handsome production values, and smart acting and dialogue delivered by Theron and Bacon.

Theron is easy to believe as a desperate mother who will do anything to get her daughter back. This includes, among others, hiding a scalpel between her butt cheeks, the better to castrate a kidnapper with.

"Trapped" certainly needed someone with the charisma to capture the camera's attention and the ability to hold it, and Theron is a good choice. She is a fine enough actress to be able to bring something to an on-screen personality that isn't in the script.

Best part

Bacon fashions a chillingly complex villain who is both ruthless and intelligent. His Joe is convincing as a bastard: cold, menacing and cruel. Towards the end of the film he goes into full

HOW/A31

Assunta sees the light

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ASSUNTA de Rossi made some people happy when she recently declared that she was no longer accepting new bold roles starting next year, and would henceforth keep her clothes on in front of the movie camera.

Her announcement was deemed important because she was one of the daring young things who started the latest round of sexy flicks a couple of years ago.

After she became a hot property with "Red Diaries," quite a number of heretofore circumspect young actresses suddenly followed suit and threw caution (and their underwear) to the winds, and signed up for their own bold starrers.

Their logic was as practical as it was numbingly cynical: if stripping worked for Assunta, they would follow her daring example so it would add sizzle to their fizzling careers, too.

They dreaded going the way of all flesh, but if it would fast-track their ascent to stardom, sex-flick producers could count them in!

So, following the example set by Assunta and other "pioneering" bold actresses of the new decade, a dozen other young actresses went the sexy route, exciting some members of the movie audience, but shocking and depressing others.

Their bold starrers were passed off as relevant and significant, but most everybody knew their true exploitative intent. Some of the new bold stars achieved success like Assunta, but the new spate of sex movies has had a cloying rather than liberating effect on the local film scene.

That's why Assunta's declaration that she would soon "unbold" herself has given some people hope that the "sexification" of the movie industry need not be a one-way ticket down to the pits of prurience. Now that Assunta has belatedly seen the light, we trust that at least some of the new boldies who followed her example before will also emulate her decision to rehabilitate her screen image.

Of course, some people say that the reason Assunta can now say no to blatantly sexy roles is the fact that she's about to marry into a wealthy family. That's true, but perhaps we can also credit her for some genuine illumination, and for wanting to help rehabilitate other young sexy actresses as well.

In a depressingly dingy movie scene characterized by cynical "practicality" and opportunistic exploiters at every turn, let's celebrate the few moments of truth that do manage to shine through. May other bold stars also learn to say: Enough.

'Santa Clause, 2'

TIM Allen's latest film is showing in town, and its appeal has been boosted by the fact that it's been declared the box-office leader in the states after its recent boffo opening weekend, grossing a very respectable $29 M. It edged out "I Spy," "Jackass: The Movie" and "The Ring."

In the first "Santa Clause" film, Tim Allen assumed the role of Santa after old Mr. Claus fell off his roof. In the sequel, he's enjoying the job, but discovers that, if he doesn't get married before Christmas, he can't be Santa anymore.

To fill Santa's boots while he's out looking for a bride, his elves create his clone, who starts running things at the North Pole with an iron hand. So, Allen's character has his work cut out for him, getting hitched and solving the big problem brewing at home.

'English the Easy Way'

VINE Communications, Inc. has rescheduled Module A of its "English the Easy Way" seminars to Nov. 19, 21, 26 and 28, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Vinecom Lecture Hall at 7 Brooklyn St., Cubao.

The seminar is for high school, college and advanced ESL students, as well as professionals who want to speak and write English more grammatically, without having to go through the drudgery of definitions, etc.

Other Vine Communication seminars: "Creative Writing Made Easy," Module C on Nov. 16, Module D on Dec. 7; and "Magazine Writing and Editing" on Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 850-8603.

Movies on TV

FILMS on the HBO channel: Monday Nov. 11 at 12:15 p.m., "Finding Forrester." 3:45 a.m., "The World According to Garp."

Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6 a.m., "Missing." 4:30 p.m., "Election." 8 p.m. "Band of Brothers-Curahee/Day of Days." 10 p.m., "Six Feet Under-Brotherhood."

Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 8 a.m., "Heaven and Earth." 4 p.m., "Love and Basketball." 4:15 a.m., "The Original Kings of Comedy."

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 11 p.m., "Joan of Arc."

On the Cinemax channel: Sunday, Nov. 10 at 11:30 a.m., "Millenium Man." 4p.m., "School Ties."

Monday, Nov. 11 at 3p.m., "I'll Do Anything." 5 p.m., "Shenandoah." 9 p.m., "Snatch."

Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 5:45 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7:15 p.m., "Bowfinger."

'I can't wait'

From page A32

sexy movies. I just want to concentrate on drama and wholesome roles."

She insists Jules never meddles in her career, even in her recent decision to part ways with her manager, **Manny Valera**.

"Jules had nothing to do with what happened between me and Manny," she says. "Jules simply doesn't want people taking advantage of me. If it happened before, he would not let it happen now.

"He wants people to respect me because I'll be his wife. I'll be Mrs. Ledesma. Others can question his actions but not his intentions. There's no harm in what he does."

She doesn't want her future husband to watch her movies, especially the love scenes with her leading man. In "Bahid," where she plays the rebellious sister of **Dina Bonnevie**, she has love scenes with **Diether Ocampo**, who plays her husband.

"But Jules is very open-minded and understanding. It helped that he lived and studied in the States. He knows that I have commitments and priorities. He knows this is only a job."

Will she eventually give up show biz to become a homemaker?

"Yes, I see that happening in the future," Assunta says. "I want to rest. I've been working for the past seven years. My mom and my manager didn't even want me to go on vacation.

"Last year, I got really drained. I did three movies—'Red Diaries,' 'Sisid' and 'Hubog.' I need time for myself. I want to learn how to take care and run a household. I'll do it slowly. A baby can perhaps come three years from now when I'm 22. That's also what Jules wants."

Assunta had a glorious, four-day vacation during the All Saints' Day break, when she went to San Carlos City with Jules and his kids.

"Next week, we'll go to Singapore for three days before he leaves on a working trip to Europe," she says.

Assunta discloses Jules has the penchant for spoiling her.

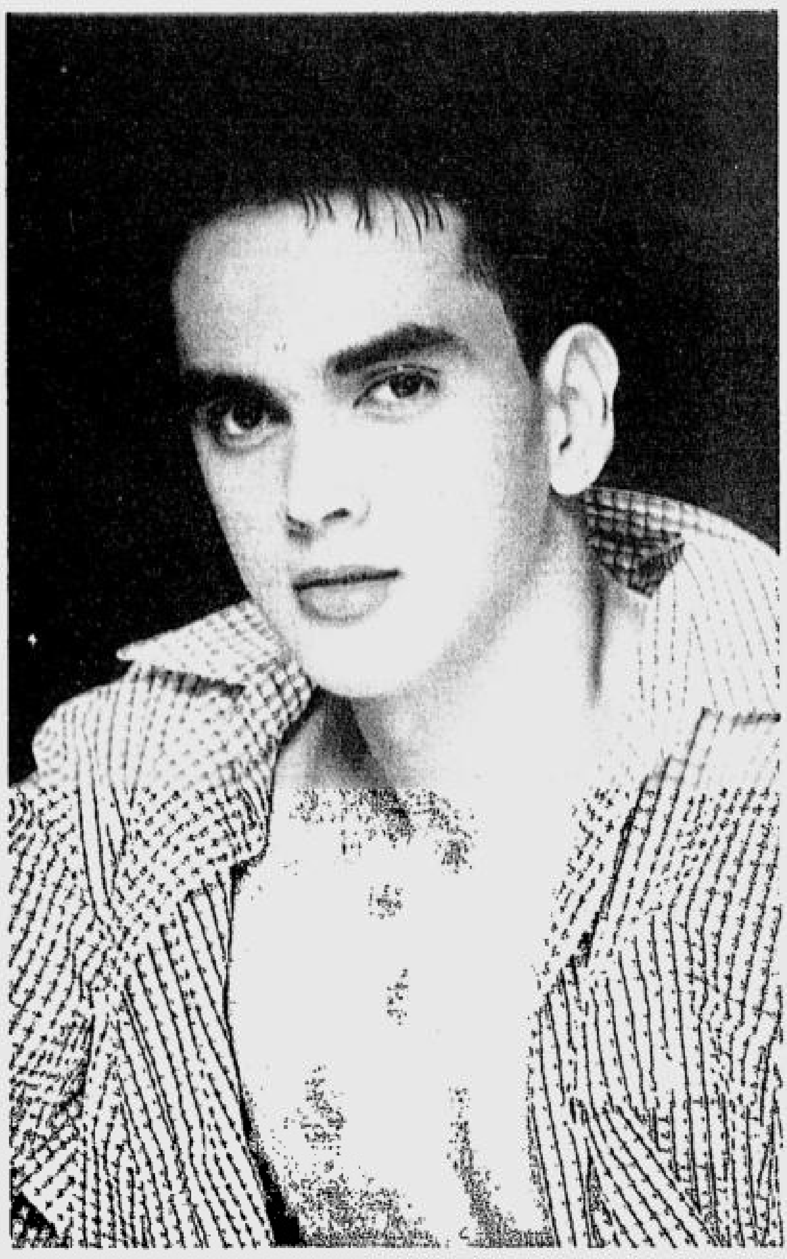
"I'm very lucky with Jules. In a way, I have an advantage because I'm young so I always get my way. He brings me food on the set or visits me during tapings. I don't always have time for him but he finds time for us to be together."

Jules also loves surprises, she says.

"Two weeks ago, I was feeling really down. But when I got home, there was a huge bouquet of blue roses from him. It really perked me up.

"When I tell him I love him, he always answers me, 'I love you more.' Once, he was asked what he loves about me and he gave a beautiful answer. He said, 'She has a heart of gold. What's inside her is ten times more beautiful than what's outside.' That was very flattering."

Rodel Velayo always 'all the way'



NOBLE PROFESSION is what acting is, and Rodel wants people to realize that.

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

SCREEN stud Rodel Velayo never dreamed of being a movie star, much less a sexy star. But he has been in show business for four years now, packaged by Seiko Films as a "bold star." He has appeared in 13 movies where, almost always, he was shown in various states of undress.

But when a talent scout spotted the good-looking AMA computer student and urged him to give movies a try, it didn't take him very long to consider the offer. "It's better than becoming a bum," Rodel says.

His latest movie is "Kasiping," where he is in a passionate foursome with Diana Zubiri, Halina Perez and newcomer Dante Balboa.

"Kasiping" was written by Mel del Rosario, who also wrote "Magkapatid" which starred Sharon Cuneta and Judy Ann Santos. Like Rodel's previous movies, "Kasiping" has sex.

What is the hardest part of being a bold star?

"*Yung naghuhubad ka na, umaarte ka pa.* I find it very hard but the acting thing becomes a lot easier when you have a good director who knows how to motivate his actors."

Do you use plaster on yourself for sensitive scenes?

"It's always all the way. In Seiko, the motto is *bawal ang mag*-plaster."

Who is your favorite leading lady?

"I guess for the moment it is Diana Zubiri because we've done other movies together and we are comfortable with each another when it comes to doing sexy scenes. As for the other leading ladies, *okay din naman sila* save for one or two."

Who are these exceptions? And why?

"*Huwag na lang*. One had bad breath so I brought along mouth wash. After I gargled, I gave some to her but she did not touch it. So I put some Vicks in my nose *para hindi ko maamoy*."

Frontal nudity

What is the boldest movie you have done?

"'Burlesk King,' because I had scenes of frontal nudity and I had a meticulous director, Mel Chionglo. It was my first time to do frontal nudity. I played a macho dancer and that, too, was hard for me to do, the dancing."

How are your bold scenes done?

"The director tells us what he wants to be done. It is like a dance choregraphy, and we rehearse with our clothes on. He shoots us from various angles and chooses the most cinematic. It is a repetitious process. *Mahirap, masarap* at *nakakapagod*. In real life, *wala namang* blocking involved when you make love, 'di ba?"

Do you get turned on while doing bold scenes?

"If her undies smell fresh, that would turn me on. You know, I don't agree with what other actors say that because there are lights and crew members around you, you wouldn't get aroused. Not in my case, and my co-star understands that. How can you possibly not be aroused when both of you are completely naked? But you know, we have to attend an acting workshop on nude scenes."

What do you do to control it?

"A glass of water usually does the trick."

Don't you get tired doing the same thing over and over?

"Not really. Enjoyable nga. Kidding aside, there is no big challenge involved in disrobing. What you need is guts. Lately, I am more focused in my acting. I am not a good actor, not yet, but with meaty roles, I am slowly getting there."

Up to when will you go bold?

"I guess for as long as my mother studio wants me to. I am still young and if I take good care of my body, I will still be active for a couple of years more. Our body is our asset. They expect you to be fresh at *parang laging paligo* all the time.

"At the same time, I am trying to penetrate the world of drama by taking guest roles in drama serials. Bold is always associated with young age. *Pero kung mapapag-aralan kong umarte nang husto*, I can be assured of a longer movie career. True acting has no limits. In Nora Aunor's Bituin, I play the lover of Gardo Verzosa and that is something new for me."

What is the most cruel thing that has been said about you as a bold star?

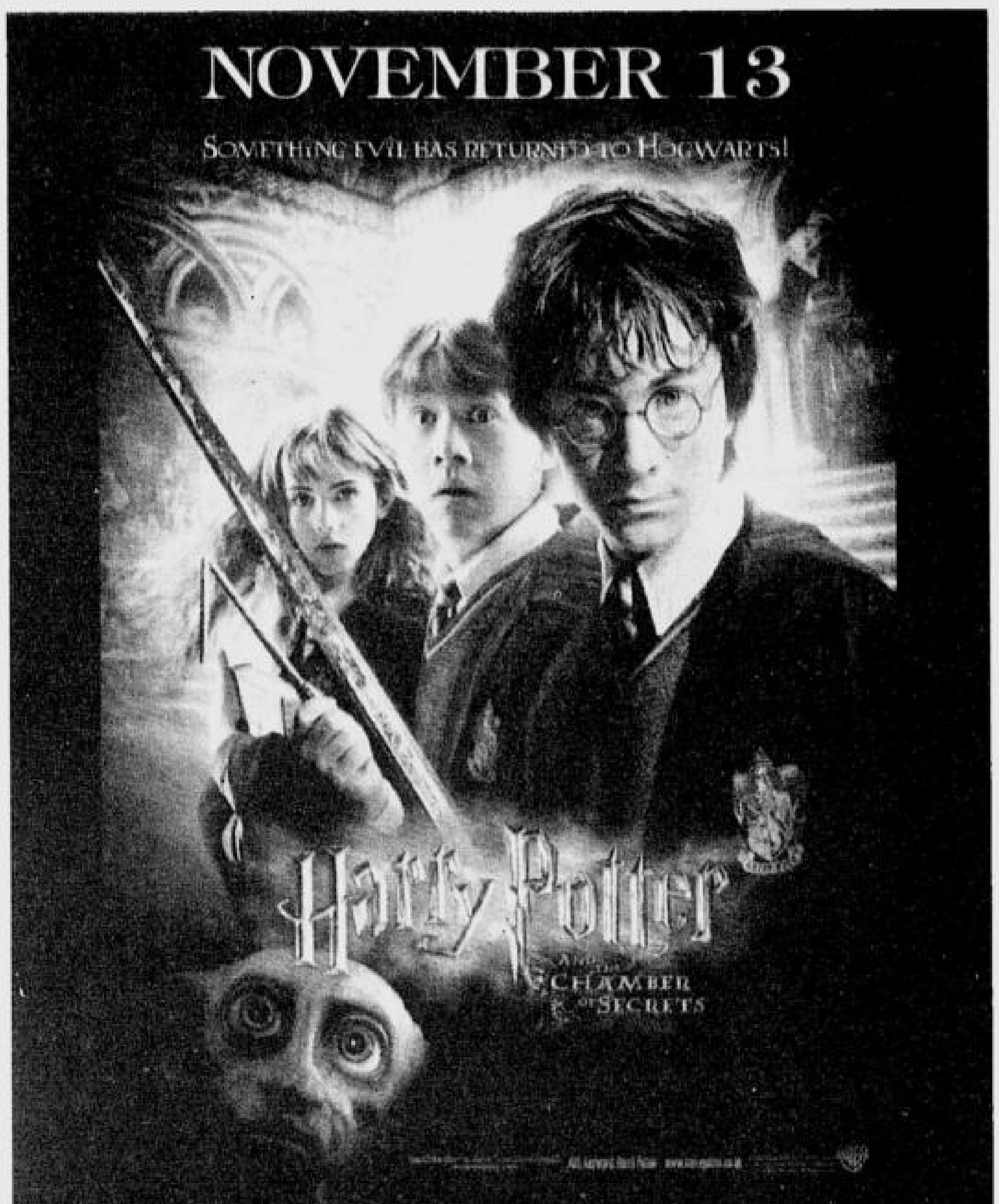
"It is very demeaning to hear people say, '*Artista lang yan.*' I would like to prove that acting is a noble profession. Of course, in every basket, there is a rotten apple."

How about indecent proposals from matrons and gays?

"*Tinatawanan ko lang*. I never take them seriously *kahit alam kong* they are serious with their offers."

Does size matter for a bold star?

"We are not porno stars so it should not matter, but it can be an advantage especially when you are doing pictorials."



NOVEMBER 13

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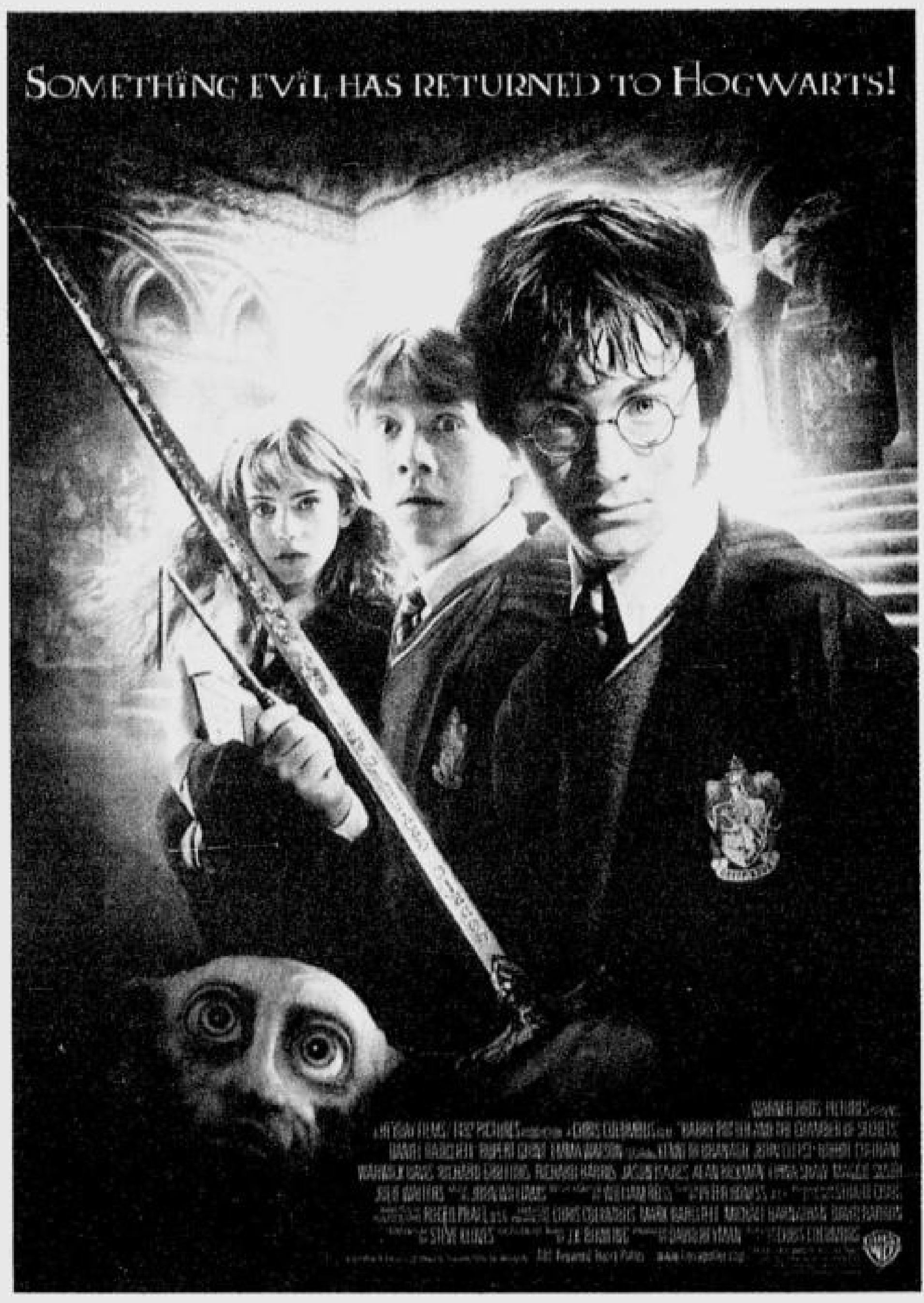

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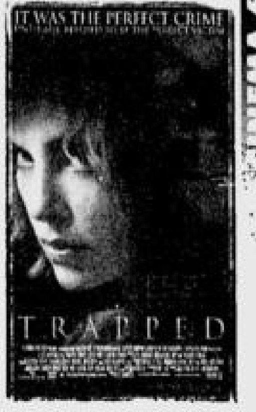

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6 (DOLBY) KAILANGAN KITA
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8 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
9 DALAGINDING

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 GHOSTSHIP
2 (SDDS) KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS) TWO TIMER
4 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER
5 TRAPPED

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 TRANSPORTER
3 (DTS) TRAPPED
4 TWO TIMER
5 (SDDS) GHOSTSHIP

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 TWO TIMER

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 KAILANGAN KITA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson TWO TIMER
Lords DALAGINDING
Jennet KAILANGAN KITA

MARRIE TTA..E
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tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 TWO TIMER
3 TRANSPORTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER
2 TWO TIMER
3 RESERVER
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 DALAGINDING

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 : 879.2029
1 TWO TIMER
2 KAILANGAN KITA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 KAILANGAN KITA=1:35/3:45/5:55/8.05
2 TWO TIMER=12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8 50
3 GHOSTSHIP=12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8 40
4 (SDDS) TRAPPED12:05/2:15/6:35/8:40
5 (DTS) TRANSPORTER=2:00/4:10/6:20/8 30
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA= 12 20/2 20/ 4 20/6.20/8 20
7 CHANGING LANES-12 05/2 15 4 25 6 35 8 4'

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 DALAGINDING=1:40/3:40/5:40/7 40
2 TWO TIMER=1 15/3 25/5 35/7 45

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 TWO TIMER
2 KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS) TRANSPORTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TWO TIMER
2 (DTS) KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER
4 GHOSTSHIP

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 (DOLBY) GHOSTSHIP
3 (DTS) TRANSPORTER
4 TWO TIMER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TWO TIMER
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY) KAILANGAN KITA
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 TWO TIMER
3 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN
4 (DTS) RED DRAGON

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) RED DRAGON
2 (DTS) TWO TIMER
3 KAILANGAN KITA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KAILANGAN KITA
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 (DTS) DALAGINDING
4 GHOST SHIP

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER
2 KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS) TWO TIMER
4 GHOSTSHIP
5 BED TIME STORY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 TWO TIMER
2 KAILANGAN KITA
3 TRANSPORTER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 TWO TIMER
2 KAILANGAN KITA
3 TRANSPORTER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 TWO TIMER
3 (DTS) KAILANGAN KITA
4 (DOLBY) RED DRAGON

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) KAILANGAN KITA
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BED TIME STORY
2 KAILANGAN KITA
3 SINGSING NI LOLA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 RED DRAGON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 (DTS ES) GHOSTSHIP
4 BALLISTIC ECK VS' SEVER

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2 TWO TIMER
3 GHOST SHIP
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 TRANSPORTER
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 DALAGINDING
8 TRAPPED

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 TWO TIMER
3 TRANSPORTER
4 DALAGINDING
5 KAILANGAN KITA
6 STA. CLAUSE 2
7 CHANGING LANES
8 TRAPPED
9 GHOST SHIP
10 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 TRANSPORTER
5 CHANGING LANES
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 GHOST SHIP
8 TRAPPED
9 KAILANGAN KITA
10 TWO TIMER
BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
12 DALAGINDING

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 CHANGING LANES
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 TRAPPED
4 KAILANGAN KITA
BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6 TRANSPORTER
7 DALAGINDING
8 STA. CLAUSE 2
9 KAILANGAN KITA
10 KAILANGAN KITA
11 GHOST SHIP
12 TWO TIMER

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1 RED DRAGON
2 CHANGING LANES
3 TRANSPORTER
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 TRAPPED
BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
7 TWO TIMER
8 DALAGINDING
9 KAILANGAN KITA
10 GHOST SHIP
11 KAILANGAN KITA
12 STA. CLAUSE 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 KAILANGAN KITA
2 TWO TIMER
3 DALAGINDING
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 TRAPPED
7 TRANSPORTER
8 CHANGING LANES

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2 TRAPPED
3 TRANSPORTER
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 CHANGING LANES
6 DALAGINDING
7 KAILANGAN KITA
8 GHOST SHIP
9 TWO TIMER
10 SINGSING NI LOLA

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 "MUSIC OF THE NIGHT"
2 CHANGING LANES
3 STA. CLAUSE 2
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 KAILANGAN KITA
6 TWO TIMER
7 GHOST SHIP
8 KAILANGAN KITA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 BEDTIME STORIES
2 CLOSED
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 PLUTO NASH
5 RED DRAGON
6 MR. DEEDS
7 CLOSED
8 TWO TIMER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 GHOST SHIP
2 PLUTO NASH
3 STA. CLAUSE 2
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 TWO TIMER
6 KAILANGAN KITA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 TWO TIMER
2 TRANSPORTER
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 CHANGING LANES

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 TRANSPORTER
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 TWO TIMER

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2 TWO TIMER
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 MR. DEEDS
5 KAILANGAN KITA
6 POSSESSION

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
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1 TRAPPED
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

2 CHANGING LANES
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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7 SANTA CLAUSE 2
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3 TRAPPED
4 THE TRANSPORTER
5 GHOST SHIP
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 CHANGING LANES

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 THE SANTA CLAUSE 2
2 CHANGING LANES
3 GHOST SHIP
4 TWO TIMER
5 TRAPPED
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 TRANSPORTER
8 DALAGINDING

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 THE TRANSPORTER
2 GHOST SHIP
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
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6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 TWO TIMER
8 TRAPPED

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
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2 GHOST SHIP
3 TWO TIMER
4 TRAPPED
5 KAILANGAN KITA
6 SANTA CLAUSE 2

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
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2 KAILANGAN KITA
3 RED DRAGON
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 "O"
6 SINGSING NI LOLA

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
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4 BEDTIME STORIES
5 TWO TIMER
6 PLUTO NASH

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6 GHOST SHIP

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How to execute a near-perfect kidnapping

From page A28

psycho mode, enhancing the tension.

The scenes involving him and Theron, replete with psycho-sexual games, are perhaps the best part of the film.

An important subplot that never gets the attention it deserves is the Hickeys' personal tragedy. We are made to understand that money is not the primary motive in kidnapping the Jennings' child but revenge. Beyond that, however, little is done with this information, and eventually it's forgotten.

The film also never gets to examine the dynamics inside the kidnap gang. We know Marvin is Joe's puppet and Cheryl is a battered wife, but the movie could have delved further into the nature of their relationships.

"Trapped" isn't a great thriller, but it also isn't a bad one. In a country fast becoming the kidnap capital of Asia, the story of a family whose life is transformed from bliss to nightmare because of a kidnapping will certainly captivate audiences. Unfortunately, the kidnappers among them would probably appreciate more than the film's production values.

OPENS NOVEMBER 13 IN MORE THAN 150 THEATERS NATIONWIDE!

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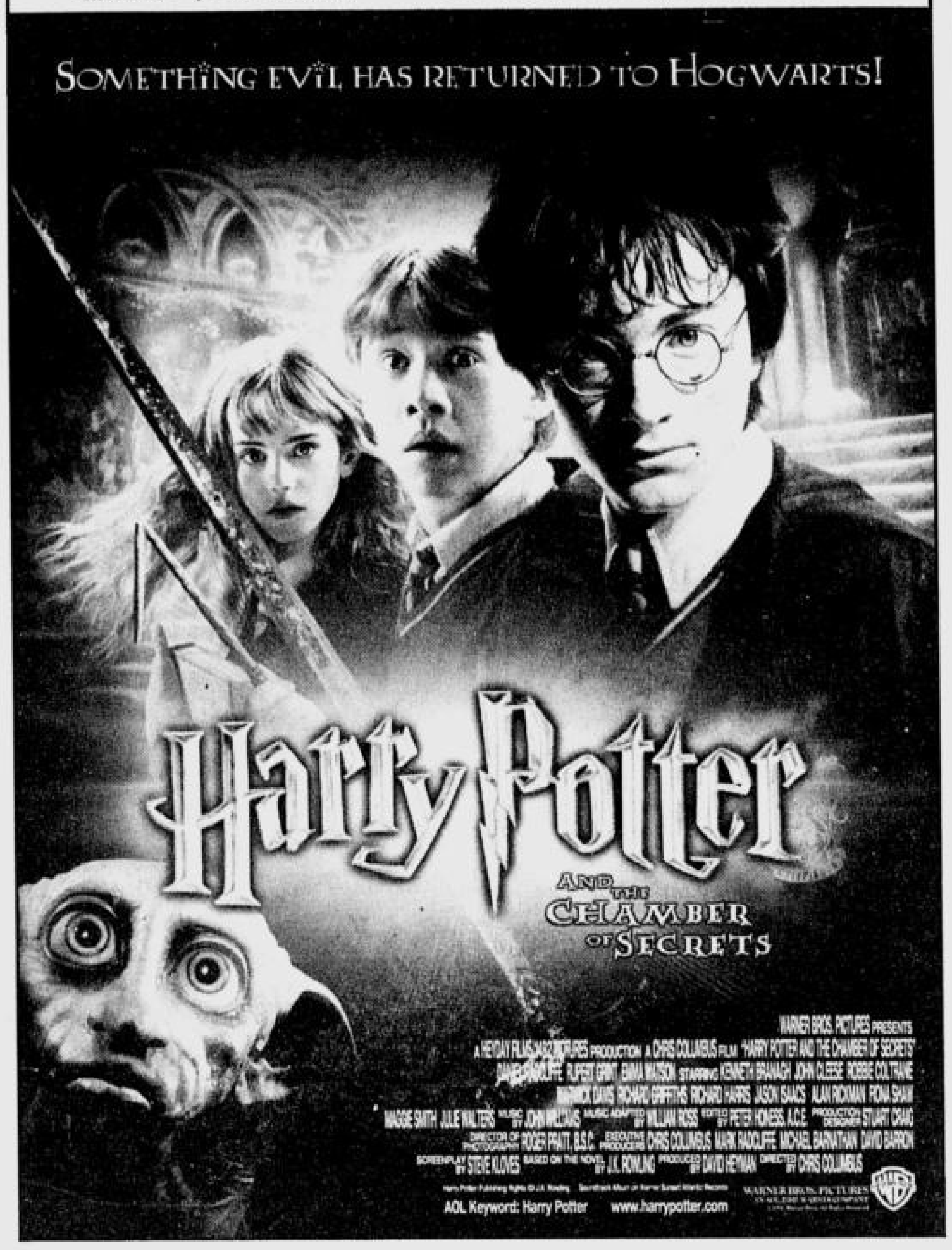
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PIÑERO

"Piñero" tells the story of the explosive life of a Latino icon, the poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, whose urban poetry is recognized as a pre-cursor to rap and hip-hop. After doing time in hard-core Sing-Sing for petty thefts and drug dealing, Piñero's prison experiences developed into the 1974 Tony-nominated play Short Eyes. The resulting notoriety and fame was too much for the Latino bad-boy genius who retreated to the darker corners of New York City.
Starring: Benjamin Bratt, Talisa Soto, Mandy Patinkin, Rosita Moreno, Jaime Sanchez; Directed by: Leon Ichaso

"Vibrant and compelling."
- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB RATING: Restricted 18 (R)

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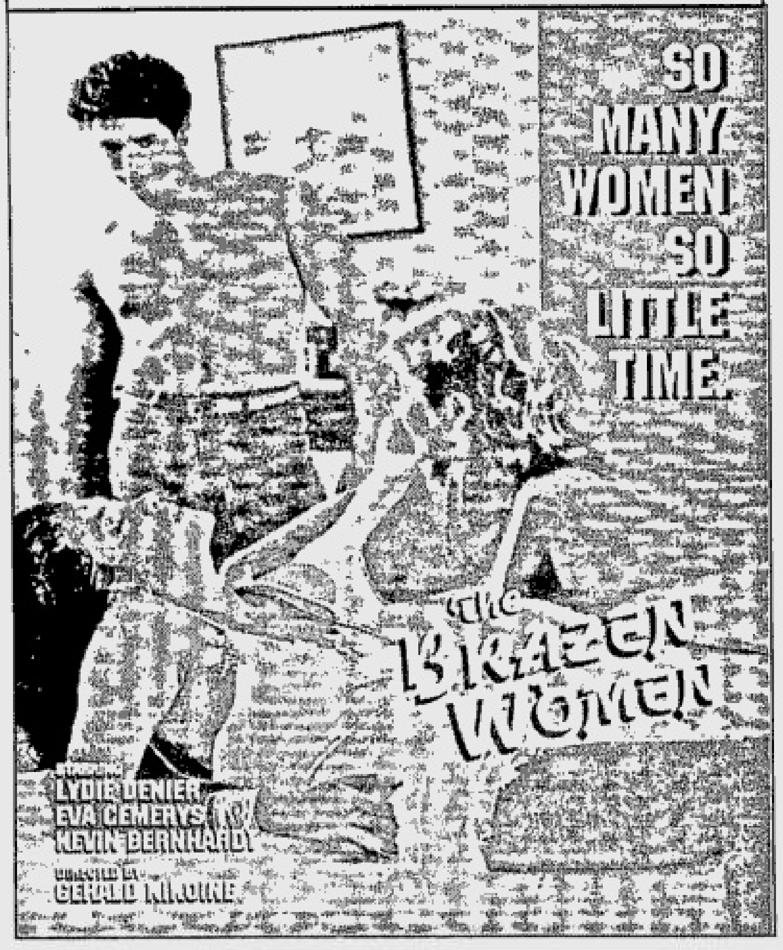

Relax, see a movie!

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GAMITAN / VOODOO
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ODEON-2	BUKAS BABAHA ANG DUGO / SENSUAL
ROBEN	DALAGINDING
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	AUSTIN POWER / DERAILED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	DALAGINDING
REMAR	DALAGINDING
REMAR-2	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KAILANGAN KITA
B	TWO TIMER
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-2	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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TRAPPED **R18** 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	**CHANGING LANES** **P13** 12:40,3:05,5:30, 7:45,10:00	**KAILANGAN KITA** **P13** 12:40,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40
TRANSPORTER **P13** 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:55,10:00	**SANTA CLAUSE 2** **GP** 11:30,1:40,3:50	**SWEET HOME ALABAMA** **P13** 12:50,3:10

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CINEMA 2
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6:35, 8:50
P 13

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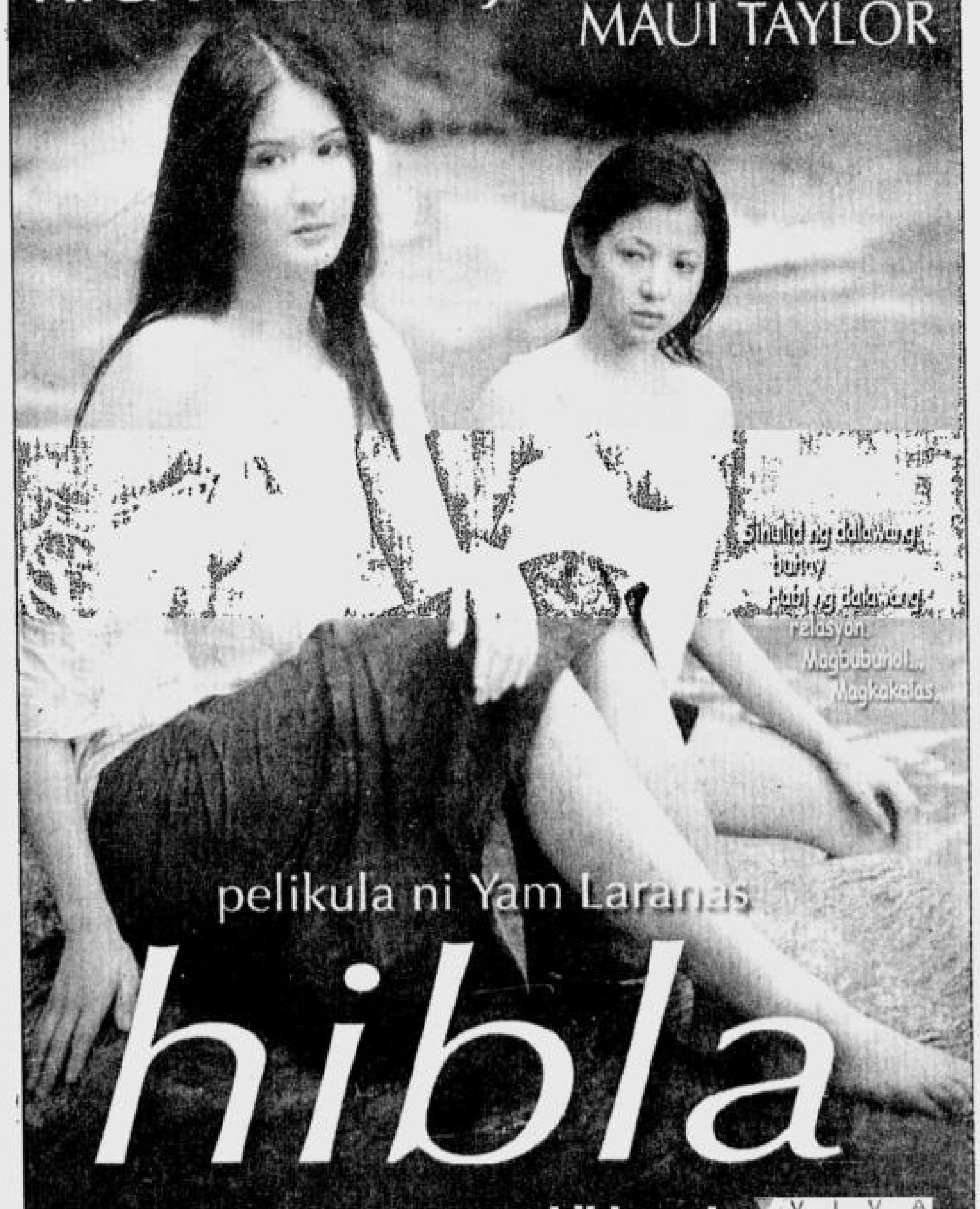

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'I can't wait'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"I CAN'T wait to become Mrs. Jules Ledesma," exclaims 19-year-old actress **Assunta de Rossi,** who will marry Negros Occidental Rep. **Jules Ledesma** on Dec. 14 (not Dec. 15 as earlier reported) in a civil ceremony.

"We want to be legally married so people will stop condemning us."

The civil wedding date was moved a day earlier to give way to the traditional lighting of the giant Christmas tree in San Carlos City in Ledesma's province on Dec. 15. Assunta said she and Jules will attend the ceremony.

Assunta's relationship with Jules started only last March and Assunta has not been spared of nasty talk and negative write-ups.

Soon after, she also stopped speaking to her mom **Nenita,** 46, and sister **Alessandra,** 18.

"There are issues which have been exaggerated," Assunta says. "The write-ups were too judgmental and heartless. There were even fabricated ones, without any interviews.

"Jules gets hurt not just for himself but also for his family. His mom (**Conchita Arenas Ledesma**) once said, 'What are they doing to my son?' People who hate Jules don't really know him. He's not perfect but I can't even think of any of his negative traits.

"I just wish people, including my family, would give Jules a chance to prove who he really is because they don't know him at all. Respected and credible people defend him."

JULES LEDESMA'S bride. "I wish people would give him a chance"

Despite the talk, Jules' family apparently remains fond of Assunta. His children, **Cristina Julieta,** 10, and **Julio Carlos,** 5, are very close to her. They call her Auntie Sam, a nickname formed from her inverted initials. Her full name is **Maria Assunta Sciavone.**

She says marrying Jules is the easiest decision she has ever made in life.

"Deciding whether or not to accept a film project was even harder," Assunta maintains. "Jules and I were best friends before we got into a serious relationship. I believe he's my soul mate."

But she says her happiness on her wedding day will not be complete. Although she has invited her mom and her sister, her relationship with them has remained strained.

"It's a special day for me and I want them to be there, but I don't want to pressure them to go so there will be no tension," she says. "These past months, I'm the one trying to reach out to them. They should do their part and let go of their hatred and bitterness.

"If there's one gift I want to receive this Christmas, it's to make peace with my family and for them to accept Jules as my husband."

Her Italian father, **Luigi,** and her younger sisters **Margherita,** 13, and **Isabel,** 10, are in southern Italy.

The civil wedding will be officiated by the mayors of the four towns and one city in the first district of Negros Occidental, which Jules represents in Congress.

"I don't really know what will happen on that day," Assunta says. "Jules planned everything and he doesn't want to tell me. All I know is that it will be a formal morning gathering to be held at the Executive House of San Carlos."

The civil wedding is a prelude to a grand church wedding to be held in 2004. For that event, Assunta says Jules has promised her dream wedding, similar to that of the late Princess **Diana** and Prince **Charles.**

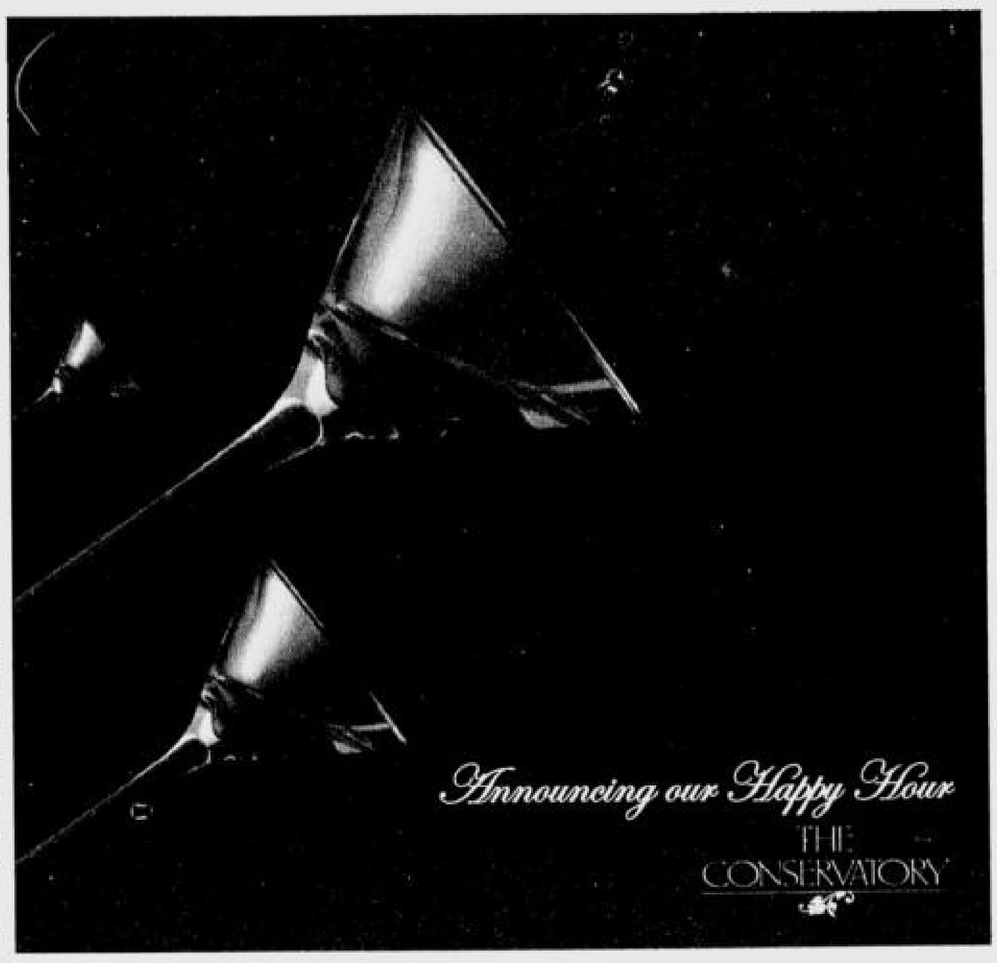
"I think I mentioned it in a magazine interview before that when I get married, I want to be like Princess Diana," Assunta says. "Jules read about it and he promised to give me that kind of wedding in 2004, complete with a horse-drawn carriage."

Joel Lamangan, Assunta's director in her latest movie, "Bahid" from Regal Entertainment, suggested a wedding in the historic Fort Santiago in Intramuros.

Assunta had said that after the civil wedding, she would stay away from making sexy films but she would not quit show biz.

"It's my decision," she says. "Jules is not stopping me, but I already have a family. He has two kids who are very attached to me. I guess I also got tired of doing

I CAN'T/A28



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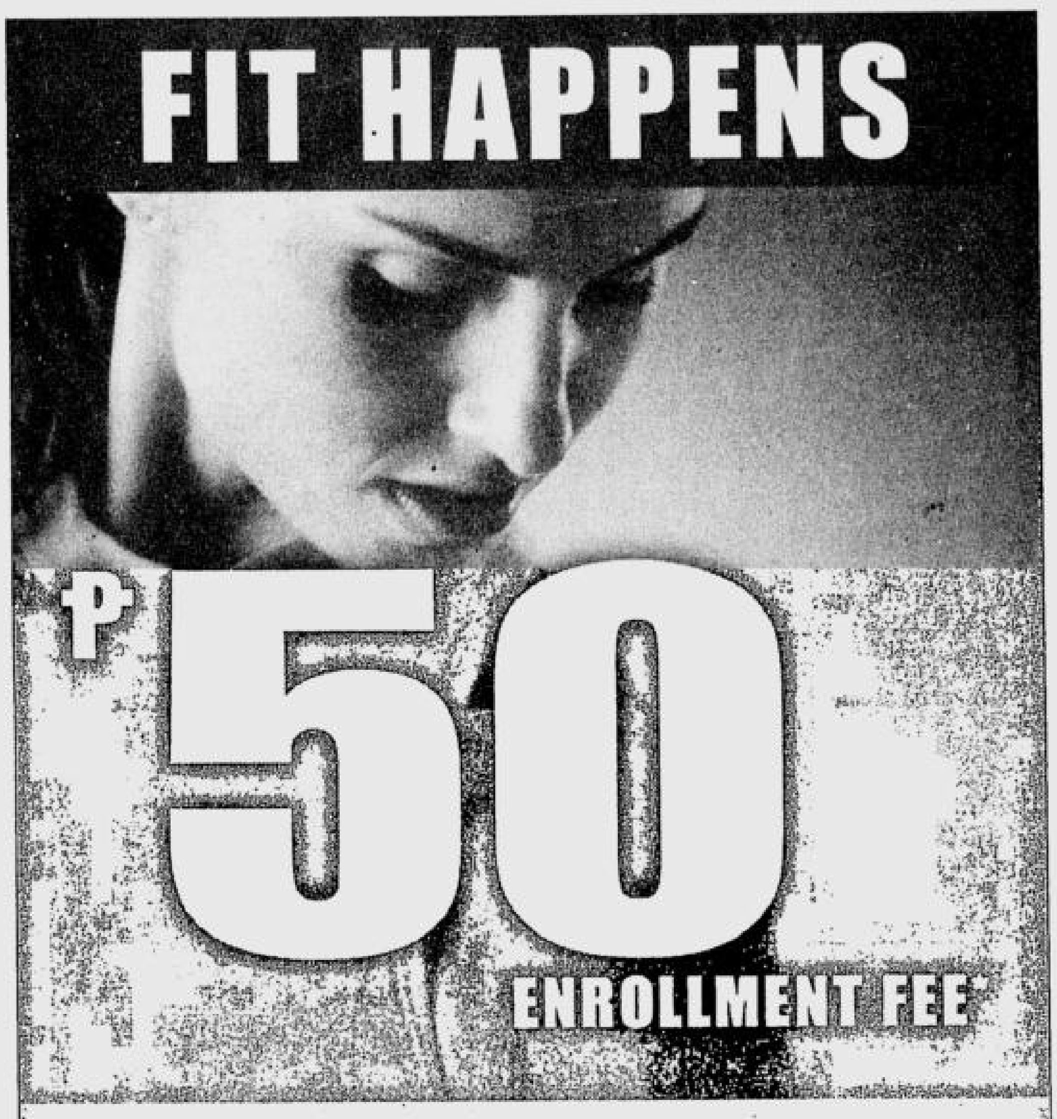

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 1	KAILANGAN KITA=1:35/3:45/5:55/8:05
Ali 2	TWO TIMER=12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50
Ali 3	GHOST SHIP=12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8:40
Ali 4	TRAPPED=12:05/2:15/4:25/6:35/8:40
Ali 5	TRANSPORTER=2:00/4:10/6:20/8:30
Ali 6	SWEET HOME ALABAMA=12:20/2:20/4:20/5:20/8:20
Ali 7	CHANGING LANES=12:05/7:15/4:25/6:35/8:40

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

Farmers 1	DALAGINDING=1:40/3:40/5:40/7:40
Farmers 2	TWO TIMER=1:15/3:25/5:35/7:45

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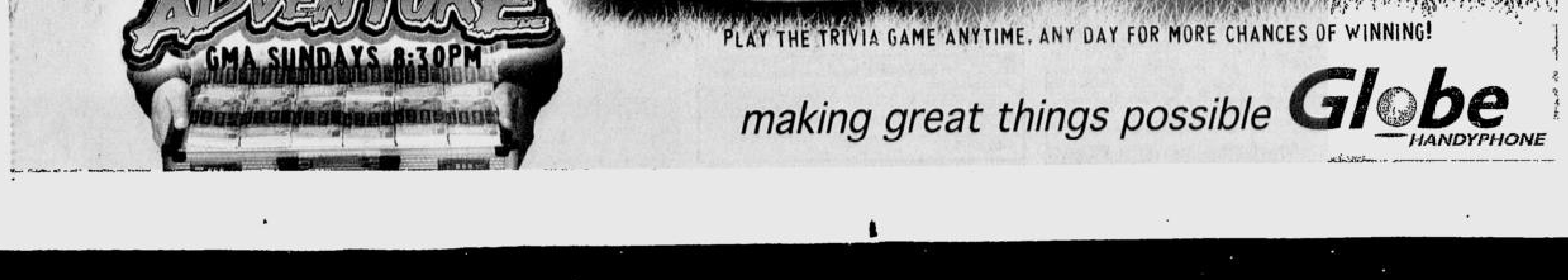

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10-month budget deficit seen at ₱180B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUDGET deficit in the first 10 months has reportedly increased to P180 billion, or a level equivalent to 4.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Disappointing numbers from the Bureau of Internal Revenue were largely the cause of the worsening fiscal picture as of October, according to a well-placed source.

"The BIR's preliminary numbers were really discouraging and unless last-minute collection came in, the deficit (for the month of) October would be close to P13 billion," the source said.

As of September, the budget deficit stood at P166.4 billion or 4.1 percent of GDP.

When the nine-month fiscal numbers were announced, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government's emerging full-year outlook was already revised to 4.5 percent of GDP or between P175 billion and P180 billion.

The finance chief had blamed the weak revenue collection and aggressive spending in the first half for the huge budget deficit that swelled to P133 billion as early as July when the original full-year target was just P130 billion.

While government spending started to taper down in July, revenue collection remained dismal. While the BIR may have been exceeding collection against the previous year's, it only reached the downscaled collection target in September.

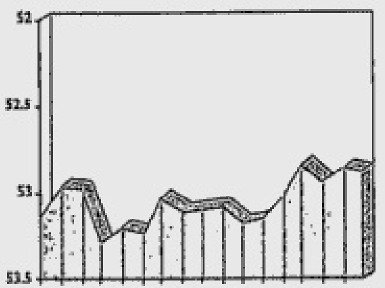
The private sector is expecting the government's deficit to swell to P200 billion for 2002.

While the government claimed it has money to finance a deficit of up to P210 billion, the fiscal deterioration might prompt other rating agencies to follow the lead of Standard & Poor's and similar-

10-MONTH/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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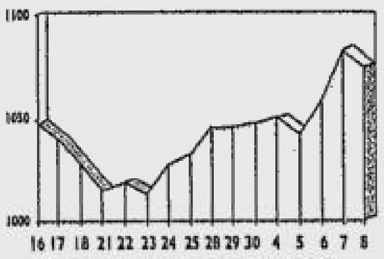
STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to consolidate

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

AFTER a strong performance during the last two weeks, the local stock market is seen to revert to a consolidation phase this week as investors await further news on corporate results for the third quarter.

But analysts are confident that the market has lightened up in such a way that investors are more likely to react to the positive rather than negative news and that the market is on an uptrend toward year's end.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained another 2.44 percent to close at 1,074.12, boosted by the cut by the US Federal Reserve of its key interest rate by 50 basis points to a 40-year low of 1.25 percent.

The market also welcomed the positive third-quarter results so far disclosed by blue chips such as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.,

STOCKS/ B6

Multitel's Ponzi scam: New face of greed

By Elena R. Torrijos
(First of a series)

B-One

MULTITEL, the Face of Greed. This may be a possible book title for what is shaping up to be one of the biggest and most widespread scams in the country.

The Multitel group of Rosario Baladjay, a former employee of Eastern Telecom's cooperative, appears to be engaged in a classic Ponzi scheme that follows the "rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul" principle. Essentially, it involves getting money from new investors to pay off earlier investors all of whom are enticed by the ridiculously high interest rates offered.

With an estimated 800,000 investors that regulators guess had put in between P5 billion and P10 billion, Multitel's operations have become larger than a few of the country's commercial banks—and the source of unimaginable heartbreak.

"I think this is much, much bigger than Glasgow (another recent scam that victimized 10,000 people out of roughly P1 billion). I know of a lot of doctors, PNP guys, yuppies, some retirees, teachers and even socialites who invested (in Multitel)," one investor told the INQUIRER.

Baladjay and her associates have gone into hiding, and many hapless investors are at their wits' end trying to find ways to get their money back. Some investors, though, insist "Rose" will not let them down and will make good their investments once the company's operations are "regularized" or legalized.

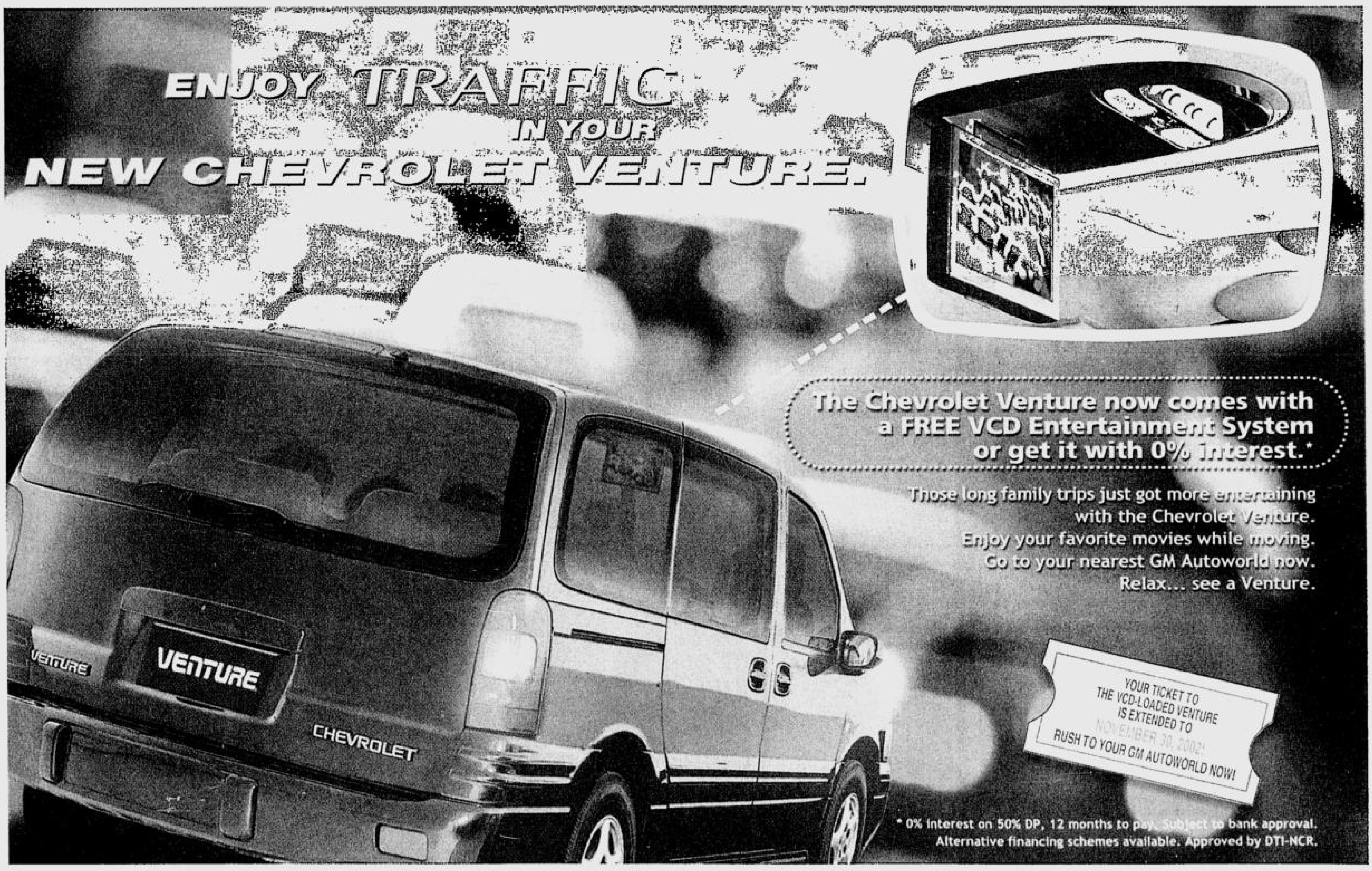
Diamond and hearts

Multinational Telecom Investors Corp., a domestic company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1988, started under the name of Ariolite Enterprises International Corp.

In August 2000, the SEC approved the company's change of name and its primary purpose as a lending investor, provided that its borrowings would not come from more than 19 lenders. It was the brainchild of Rosario "Rose" Baladjay nee Austria, married to another ex-Eastern Telecom employee, a certain Saturnino "Ninoy" Baladjay.

A former officemate of the Baladjays said that the couple retired in the early 1990s and together with other Eastern Telecom retires had pooled their funds together to make certain investments. Rose, the officemate said, could have learned her trade when she became an

MULTITEL/ B7



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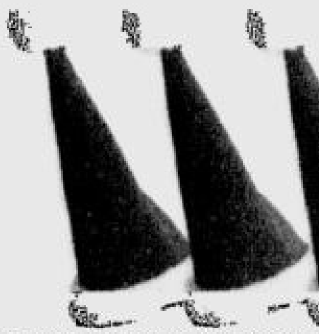

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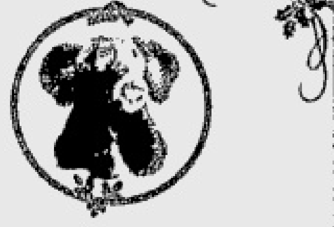

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To All Stockholders:

The Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Baguio Country Club Corporation will be held on 14 November 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Baguio Country Club, Country Club Road, South Drive, Baguio City. The Meeting shall be held in accordance with Article IV of the By-Laws with the following agenda:

1. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting.
2. Approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2002.
3. Ratification of Corporate Acts.
4. Appointment of External Auditor.
5. Any Other Business.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on 2 October 2002 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting, either in person or proxy. In accordance with Section 7 of Article IV of the By-Laws, proxies must be submitted to the Corporate Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to any meeting at which such proxies will be used. In accordance therewith, proxies must be filed with the Corporate Secretary at the 19th Floor, 1st e-Bank Tower, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, 1200 not later than 5:00 p.m. of 7 November 2002.

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PNOC firms up spin-off plan for Malampaya

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED PNOC Exploration Corp. is set to ratify this month the spin-off of its 10-percent stake in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas consortium, paving the way for the unit's initial public offering at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

PNOC-EC corporate secretary Elpidio Gamboa told the PSE on Friday that the company would assign its 10-percent participating interest in the Malampaya service contracts and all or a portion of its associated debt to wholly owned subsidiary PNOC Malampaya Production Co.

A special stockholders' meeting has been set on Nov. 22 in Fort Bonifacio to ratify the spin-off plan, he said.

PNOC-EC, which has tapped ING Barings as its financial adviser for the privatization, is expected to discuss more details about the plan during the special stockholders' meeting.

Part of the plan is the expected IPO of the PNOC spin-off unit at the PSE, a move which aims not only to help boost the sluggish stock market but raise about $400 million in cash for the national government as well.

The government is rushing to privatize its interest in the Malampaya project to cover a widening budget deficit.

For its part, PNOC-EC has been listed on the PSE since 1977 but has never sold shares to the public. The government's Philippine National Oil Co. owns 99.76 percent of PNOC-EC, whose other projects include the San Antonio gas field in Cagayan Valley and offshore exploration in the Cotabato Basin, Maiguin, Ragay Gulf and Babuyan Channel.

UK-based Royal Dutch/Shell operates the Malampaya gas project with a stake of 45 percent, with the remaining 45 percent owned by US-based Chevron Texaco.

Aside from the IPO of the PNOC-EC spin-off unit, the government is likewise prodding oil giants Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines to list on the PSE.

Under the oil deregulation law, both companies should have sold at least 10 percent of their outstanding capital stock through an IPO by 2001, or three years after the legislation of the deregulation law.

Last week, the Department of Energy already issued the circular that would slap a penalty of P50,000 for every day of delay in the fulfillment of the IPO requirement of the oil companies.

The DOE circular reaffirmed its power to direct the conduct of the IPO.

Shell and Caltex had reasoned that the timing would be bad for any public offering now.

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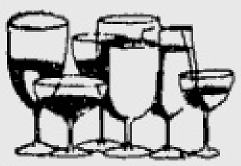

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

MINCING no words, former Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco said she had decided to decline her appointment to the United Nations in Geneva (not New York, as had been reported here on Nov. 5) because she has "lost faith in the presidency."

"I am no longer eager nor willing to serve under this presidential leadership in any capacity whatsoever, for I am extremely disappointed with, and have lost faith in the presidency," harrumphed Lichauco.

The Yale law graduate said she had already written the Commission on Appointments to retrieve the 34 sets of documents she submitted to the body and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

According to the grapevine, as Geneva is currently occupied by a career diplomat, Lichauco was set instead for re-appointment to UN New York, following the short stint of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, who has announced his retirement by year's end.

But what should have been a smooth diplomatic switchover ran into some rather strong political headwinds.

Now rumors have it that former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, not Lichauco, was instead going to be appointed to New York, post-Yuchengco.

But according to Danilo Gozo, publisher of the Espiritu-owned Philippine News in San Francisco, what President Macapagal-Arroyo promised Espiritu was the ambassadorial posting in London, which is currently occupied by Ramos-era Trade Secretary Cesar Bautista.

Bautista, an Estrada appointee, has been ambassador to the Court of St. James's for four years now.

Back to Lichauco, the outspoken career DOTC executive has decided to join a telecom outfit founded by her younger brother and renew her ties with the CEOs-only Swingles Club, according to the grapevine.

In that case, AY would surely gallantly escort her, as the taipan does to his favorite pianist in Manila.

First Pacific's troubled waters

THE BOARDROOM turbulence in its Manila subsidiaries has washed up even to the Hong Kong headquarters of First Pacific and its Indonesian homeport.

We are not referring to the increasingly undiplomatic exchanges between First Pacific/Metro Pacific/PLDT chair Manuel V.

COCKTALES/ B4

10-month . . .

From page B1

ly downgrade the country's credit rating outlook to negative from stable.

Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings have affirmed their stable outlook on the Philippines last week, days after S&P handed down its negative outlook.

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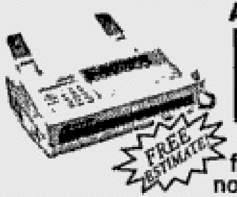

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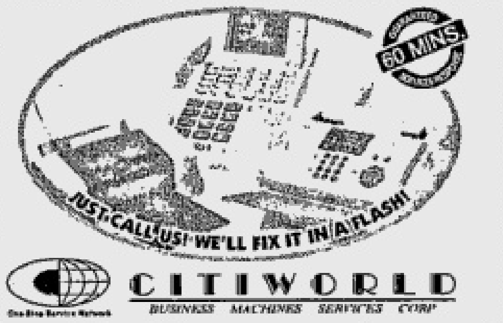

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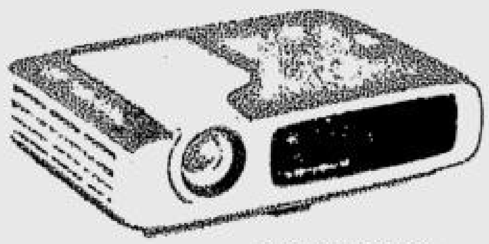

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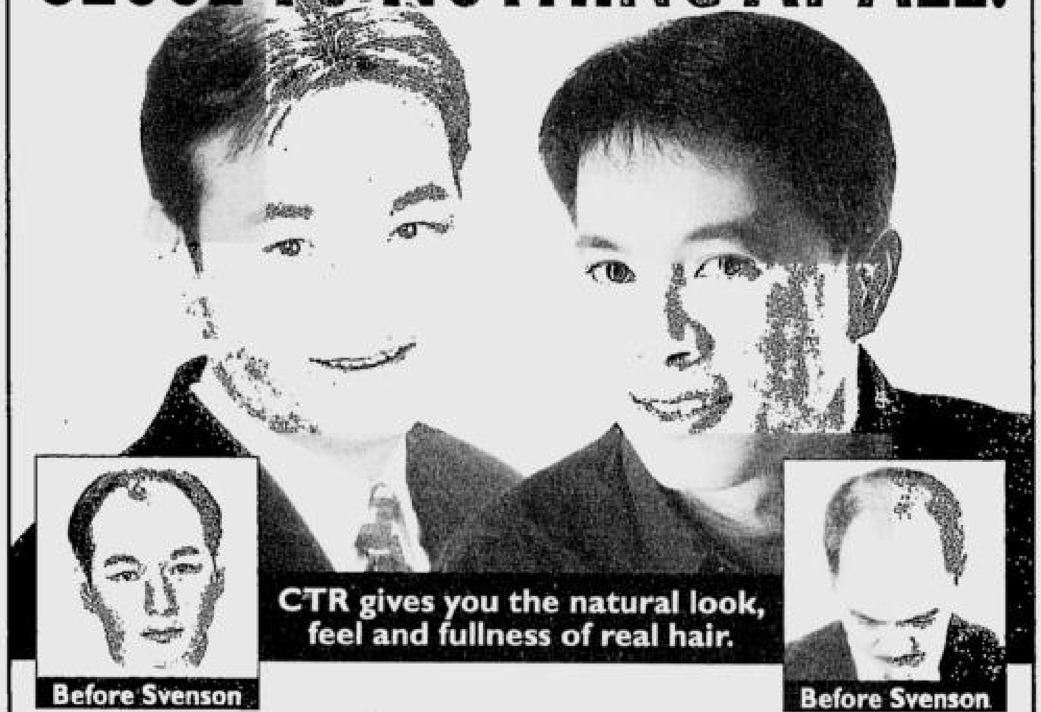

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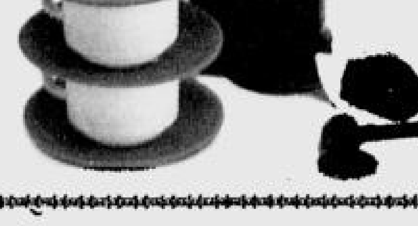

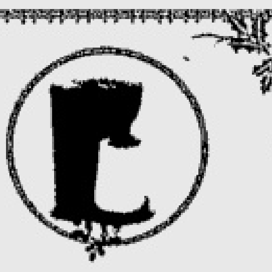

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Metrobank's $150-M tier-2 capital plan gets BSP nod

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved the application of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. to issue $150 million in new tier-2 notes.

"The board approved the Metrobank tier-2 application. We are happy to note that the plan of Equitable PCI Bank to issue similar notes is moving," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Tier-2 notes are long-term borrowings that investors can convert to equity upon maturity.

As Metrobank and Equitable PCI plan to proceed with their respective floats, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. had put a similar plan on hold after realizing that issuing tier-2 notes was an expensive way of raising new capital.

Metrobank sold $100 million worth of tier-2 notes in December 2001 to Singapore-based Dunmore Asset Ltd. The country's largest bank said it used the proceeds of the borrowing to invest in dollar-denominated Philippine debt papers.

Buenaventura said Metrobank's plan to issue tier-2 notes anew could have been in anticipation of a lower capital from the aggressive sale of its non-performing loans.

Metrobank had signed a deal to sell P16 billion worth of bad loans and assets to a group led by Dutch cooperative Rabo Bank. Such a transaction usually involved a discount of 70 to 80 percent on the face value of the assets and would impact heavily on the bank's capital.

The central bank requires lenders to maintain a capital adequacy ratio of at least 10 percent. While the industry average is at 16 percent for the commercial banking sector, some banks like Equitable PCI and RCBC have been suffering from a declining ratio.

Equitable PCI said it would sell P10 billion worth of tier-2 notes while RCBC had shelved a plan to float P3.6 billion in similar type of bonds.

The central bank had been encouraging local lenders to tap tier-2 capital in lieu of a straight equity investment to help improve their balance sheets.

A tier-2 capital is also referred to as subordinated debt. It is an investment that behaves like a deposit because it earns a pre-determined rate unlike a shareholder whose rate of return, through dividends, depends on the financial performance of the bank.

Banks, said the central bank chief, needed fresh capital to help recover from the damage inflicted by having to sustain huge non-performing loans.

The BSP had also been pushing banks to merge and consolidate, even only the branch networks, to have fewer but stronger financial groups.

Risk-weighting on gov't IOUs set

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas would require banks starting next year to set aside capital every time they buy government securities, a move that lenders believed would bring down the industry's average capital adequacy ratio by a point.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board has approved the proposal and a circular was being drafted for release in the coming weeks.

Bank officials said that from a 13-percent capital adequacy ratio average, the central bank's tighter policy would reduce the industry level to 12 percent and would leave them with very little elbow room for future risks as the BSP requires a minimum of 10 percent in capital adequacy.

Bank exposure to government securities are currently considered risk-free as these sovereign obligations are usually perceived to be free of risk unlike loans to real estate firms, consumer product manufacturers and other borrowers.

Banks use the risk-weight criteria to determine how much capital they must provide for certain assets, investments and liabilities. The riskier an item is, the bigger capital a lender must set aside as part of the stricter capital adequacy ratio observed starting this year.

"We approved the guidelines for corporate capital charge on market risks. We would like to let banks know in advance about this new policy," the BSP chief said.

Buenaventura added that the move was in line with the global standard recently set by the Bank for International Settlement, an international standard setting body for financial policies.

"In computing the capital-to-asset ratio or CAR, a certain percentage of capital must be set aside for market risks every time an investment in bonds, including government securities, is made," Buenaventura explained.

While investments in government securities are considered risk-free, Buenaventura said banks still had to provide capital for market risks. "You do not know if the market will turn against you," he said.

Cocktales

From page B3

Pangilinan and his *gweilo* directors, but to no less than the Indonesian principals of the regional investment/trading house.

The two Indonesian billionaire-families controlling First Pacific, the Salims and the Djuhars, are now suing each other in Jakarta, over, what else but, money.

If you want a more comprehensive account, check out the website of Tempo, Indonesia's weekly news magazine.

Surveillance

- TIP to Cebu landowners: PriceSmart is shopping for a suitable site within the city for its first branch outside Metro Manila. The US chain's four branches in Metro Manila each has an identical 5,000 square-meter footprint.
- VOLVO, which shut down its Shaw Boulevard and Quezon Avenue branches as the market retreated in the wake of the currency crisis, is setting up a showroom at even more upscale The Podium.

Oh, promise me

THE PHILIPPINE Women's University-based Bayanihan Dancers were promised P1 million bonus by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo sometime in the first quarter of this year, after the award-winning dance troupe capped another first place finish in a European competition.

Well, it is nearly Christmas, and the dancers, many PWU scholars, have yet to see a cent of the presidential promise.

Heard through the grapevine

WITH GMA-7 looming largely at ABS-CBN's rear-view mirror and ABS-CBN president Federico Garcia nearing golden parachute age, Gabby Lopez is increasingly becoming a working COO (child of owner) and getting hands-on at the country's largest radio-TV network.

Lopez III even accepted the chairmanship of next year's Ad Congress, apparently in order to get to know up close and personal the keepers of the increasingly tighter ad budgets.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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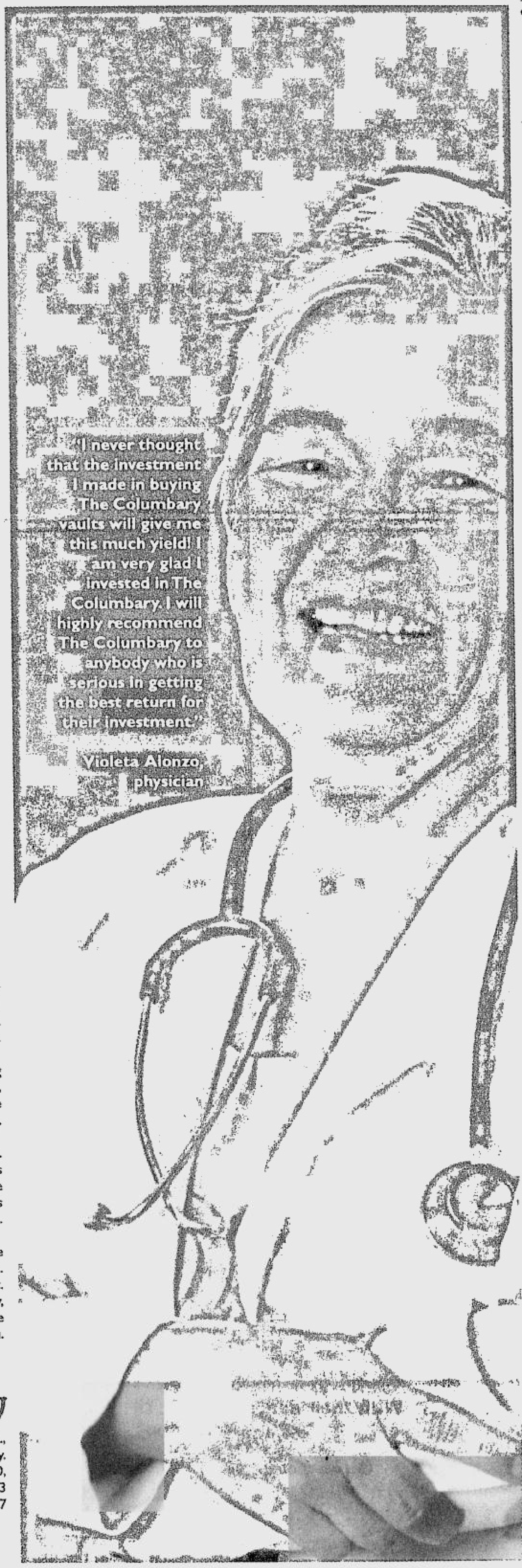
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Who's afraid of nat'l ID? Me, that's who!

(Conclusion)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IN striking down Administrative Order 308 issued by Malacañang in 1977, the Supreme Court said, in effect, that if a citizen's constitutional right to privacy is to be violated, the authorities must "satisfactorily show the presence of compelling state interests."

For indeed, when the security of the republic is threatened, the authorities must rise to defend it, even at the expense of the citizenry's constitutional right to privacy. The security of the republic is far more precious than individual rights.

Obviously, Malacañang wants to use the threat of international terrorism as the "compelling state interest" that the Supreme Court requires. But the idea did not fly. Few bought the patently ridiculous line that the Philippine contribution to the worldwide arsenal of antiterrorist weapons is—ta-da!—a national ID. So now, Malacañang has passed the buck to the cities. Malacañang seems to think that, if a presidential administrative order could not get approved at the Supreme Court, maybe a city ordinance will.

Fat chance. Baguio seems to be heading the move to fashion what is now being called the Basic City Identification System (Basic ID). If newspaper reports are right, a database will be built by drawing information from the files of the Government Service Insurance System GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Pag-IBIG, and Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The reports probably missed Comelec, National Statistics Office, Land Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Departments of Education, Foreign Affairs and Defense, and the City Hall.

Without "compelling state interests," drawing information from these offices without the prior, express and written consent of the individual citizen violates his constitutional right to privacy. The Supreme Court will shoot down the Baguio's Basic ID on sight.

In the insurance industry, a company holds in the strictest confidence any information the insured gives in order to qualify for a policy. There are in the Insurance Code strict rules on representations and warranties. The Baguio councilor who drafted the proposed ordinance on basic ID was quoted ominously of using the card "for tax purposes."

Which is another reason for scrapping the basic ID. Malacañang was supposed to have specified that the Basic ID will be voluntary. But if you don't have one, you won't get any government service. A contradiction in terms if I ever saw one. Anyway, what government service are we talking about? Do I need a basic ID to pay my taxes at City Hall?

As long as my taxes get paid, City Hall cannot care less who brings in the money or where the money comes from. If I meet an accident and I am brought to the emergency ward of the city-owned Ospital ng Makati, I won't get treated unless I have a basic ID?

The basic ID will override the Hippocratic oath? If I take out a loan at the SSS, or file a claim at Philhealth, I won't need a Basic ID.

My dossiers at the SSS and Philhealth contain information about myself that even I have already forgotten. There is no need for an ID when I renew my car's registration or driver's license; LTO has all the data it needs to complete the transaction.

In short, if I do not have a national or basic ID, I am a bad boy? But apart from the legal and constitutional questions, the national or basic ID should be scrapped because of one undeniable fact: there is no such thing as a foolproof card system, even with the use of biometrics.

As long as the system is designed by a human being, there is another human being lurking somewhere, probably a whiz kid still in high school, who will break into the system without anybody knowing about it

In the United States, the problem of teenage drinking is rising because kids are able to buy hard drinks by flashing to the bartender authentic-looking ID's produced from personal computers.

Finally, let me not hear that old martial law line that if I have nothing to hide, I should not object to a national or basic ID. If I have nothing to hide, just leave me alone, please.

DTI warns public on consumer product awards

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has issued a caveat against consumer groups conferring best products and services awards which the consumer watchdog declared as unethical.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the DTI has not endorsed any of the awards given by consumer groups because the agency would rather develop standards strictly followed by all manufacturers. Cristobal said the DTI has received complaints from companies that have been approached by some consumer groups for solicitation just to get their products cited as consumer's choice or best in the market.

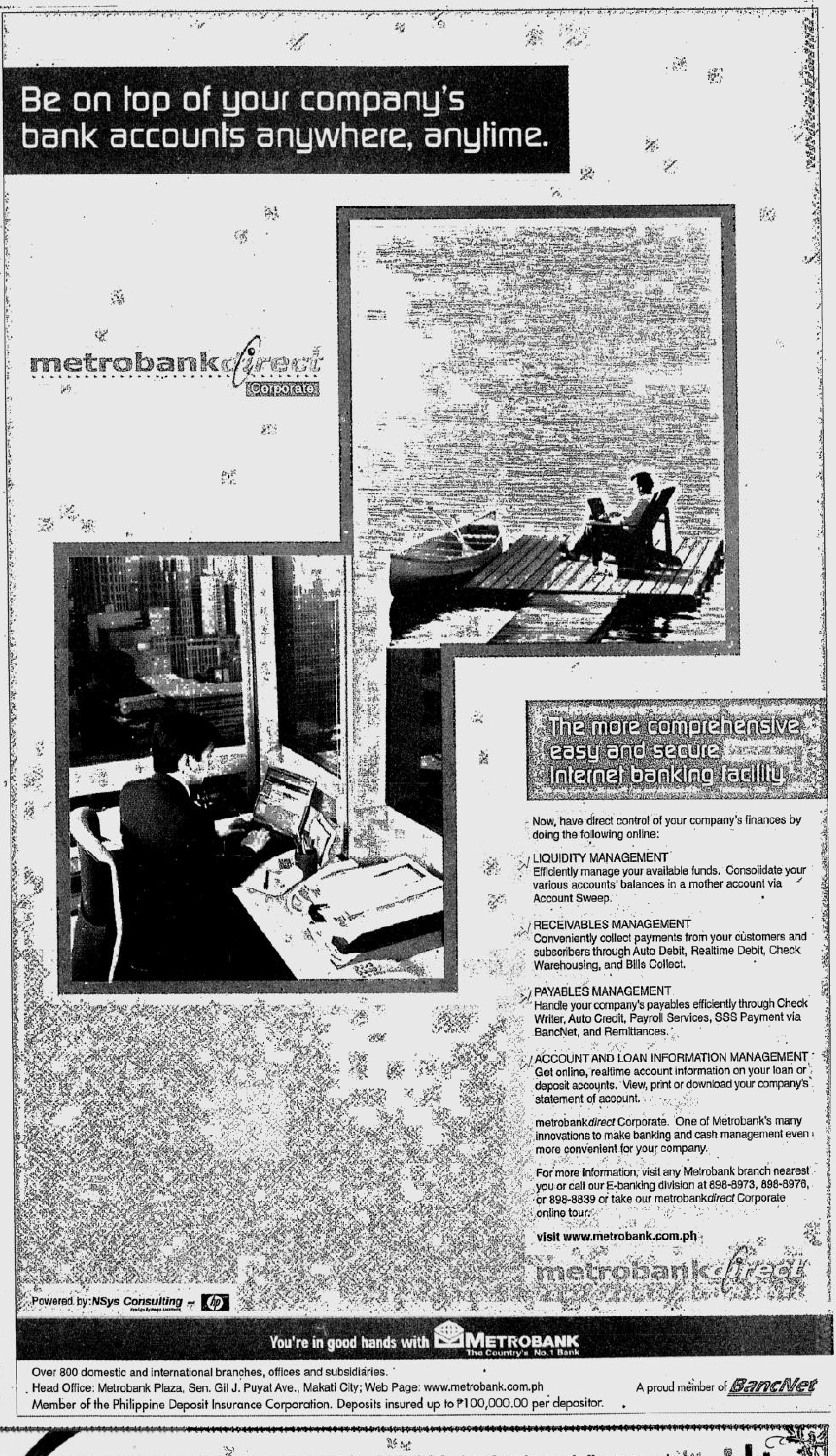
The DTI's warning came after several consumer groups came out with their consumer awards. Although it did not cite any specific group, the DTI was obviously referring to the Consumers Union of the Philippines, which bestowed awards to some of the country's biggest corporations.

Cristobal said the practice was considered unethical in the international market as he noted that there was "no such thing as consumer awards abroad."

Cristobal also raised serious doubts on the capability of consumer groups to conduct intensive product testing on a broad range of products to declare them the best in their respective categories.

"The DTI has several facilities that are able to test the quality of consumer products but we cannot even claim to test all products in the market. Product testing is a very expensive process," Cristobal said.

The DTI has cautioned consumer organizations from using the DTI and photos of its officials in the promotion of their specific awards.



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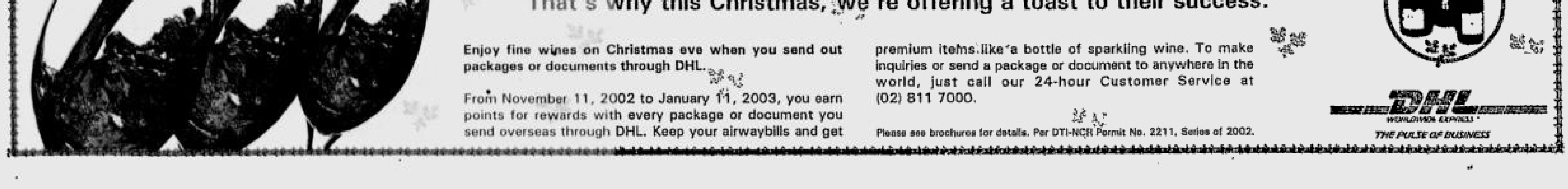

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Bearbull goes on a buying spree

I WAS very disappointed that I had absolutely no feedback on my paranormal stories. Either people were in remote areas and did not read the INQUIRER, or else they did not believe them. Nevertheless, they were true. I always front-load the jokes and limericks to amuse you but after that I am serious.

Winona Ryder has been accused of shoplifting. This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. How could a woman weighing about 100 pounds lift a shop? Even Arnold Schwarzenegger could not do it.

The government is issuing P1 billion of bonds, specifically for the small investor. To qualify, you must be 18 years old, have at least P5,000, and be less than 4 ft 10 inches.

Overheard in pre-school, "My dog has no nose." "Really, how does it smell?" "Awful.":

There was a young fellow named Price
Who dabbled in all sorts of vice:
He had virgins and boys
And mechanical toys -
And on Mondays, he meddled with mice.
There was a young fellow named Wyatt,
Who kept a big girl on the quiet;
But down on the wharf
He kept also a dwarf,
In case he should go on a diet.

Regrettably, I am getting near the end of the limericks. I still have hundreds but they are too naughty to print. It might end up with the editor getting arrested and myself deported. Perhaps I will send them to subscribers.

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I have a theory, which may be totally absurd, but has a certain amount of logic to back it up. I do not believe that President Bush had any intention of attacking Iraq and removing Saddam Hussein, at least, not unless he won the support of the UN and the Arab world. I think the whole thing was an election ploy. If he had fought the election on the basis of the economy, he would surely have lost control of both Houses and suffered an ignominious defeat. It may well be that the state of the economy and the stock market is not his fault, and was inherited from the Democrats, but that does not matter since the incumbent President is held responsible.

So he caused a major diversion by declaring war on terrorism where he could count on nationalistic support. He got a 75-percent vote both in the Senate and Congress, and the majority of Americans, who had seen New York viciously attacked with 3,000 people killed. He deliberately focused on this and made it the centerpiece of his election campaign. He had a built-in advantage as the Democrats could hardly refute his attack on terrorism without making themselves extremely unpopular. And his strategy succeeded because he has now won control of both Houses.

Now the election is over. I expect him to settle for a UN ultimatum demanding the reinstatement of weapons inspectors, without the specific threat of an attack by the United States. The Iraqis would clearly agree to this, specially as they have had plenty of time to conceal their biological weapons. The obvious place to hide them is in hospital laboratories where they would not be out of place, particularly if they were mislabeled. The weapons inspectors are not biochemists, and the United States would not dare bomb hospitals or schools, even if their intelligence reported them as hiding places.

If President Bush does decide to go to war, he does so without support from China, Russia, France, and most of the Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, which said it would not allow its bases to be used. With these restraints, he might find himself in another Vietnam situation and that would spell the end of his political career.

Returning to our own stock market, we are now at the beginning of the third-quarter announcements. Meralco was disappointing, as expected, with nine-month profits halved from P1.4 billion to P700 million. The company has stated that without a rate increase, it may not be able to pay its maturing debts in 2003, and Standard & Poor's promptly downgraded it from stable to negative, with a warning that it might be downgraded further. The shares are a gamble as to whether the Energy Regulatory Commission will grant the 30-centavo increase. If it is going to be approved eventually, it would be better to do so now, while the election is still 18 months away.

Globe followed with sparkling results. Profits for the third quarter rose 62 percent, beating analysts' forecasts. For the first nine months, sales rose 15 percent to P10.8 billion, and profits rose from P804 million to P1.3 billion. Globe added a further 524,000 subscribers bringing the total to 6 million. Much of this was due to Touch Mobile, which offers a cheaper rate per minute. Globe expects the fourth quarter to be better than the third and anticipates 6.5 million subscribers by the end of the year. Although doubts have been expressed about the market reaching saturation, Globe expects to add another 7 million subscribers over the next three years. The company has written off P2.2 billion for the closure of its Isla network. Otherwise profits would have been higher still. The shares are on a P/E ratio of 8, which compares to 15 for the Phisix. The only problem is poor marketability so it may be unsuitable for large institutions. With no financial problems and having the backing of Ayala Corp., the company expects to start paying dividends next year. Our one-year price target is P600.

TEL surpassed analysts' expectation of P1 to P1.2 billion net profit for the third quarter by a substantial margin, the actual net profit being P1.4 billion. For the first nine months of 2002, net profit has risen 74 percent from P2.4 billion to P4.2 billion. Of course, SMART contributed the lion's share with net income of P3.8 billion against P2.8 billion a year ago. During the last quarter, it has added 650,000 new subscribers. SMART is confident that the mobile phone market will continue to grow and it intends to pay a first dividend of P1.5 billion to TEL. PLTL, which has been a massive liability in the past, is expected to reach breakeven by the year-end, and to contribute to profitability next year. Its Talk 'N Text has increased the number of its subscribers from 1.2 million last year to 1.7 million. TEL still has to raise money to repay obligations maturing next year, but part of this has already been done, and its bonds have the highest rating. The company is also cost cutting and will be helped by the dividend from SMART. The price has been held back by the conflict with First Pacific when Mr. Pangilinan blocked Mr. Gokongwei's bid of P1,130 per share. Once this is resolved, the shares should move much higher as they are only on a P/E of 8. The target price of our research department is P340.

I was buying these three stocks for my discretionary accounts on Thursday, and they are all doing well. One is a gamble, but the other two have excellent fundamentals. And TEL has given a KAGI BUY at P224 and again at P226, so this is my pick of the bunch. Discretionary accounts are limited to subscribers, otherwise I would be inundated. As always, you can contact mrbearbull@hotmail.com

LATE NEWS

The FED's rate cut of 50 points will boost confidence in the United States and will also help the government's fund raising for 2003. Providing a war with Iraq can be averted, I do not think we will retest the 980 low on the Phisix.

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Celebrity Sports Club	Pls. Call	180,000
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	190,000	150,000
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	500,000*	-
Eastridge "B"	170,000	-
Evercrest	135,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	600,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills "A"/C"	230,000/250,000*	180,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,600,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,550,000
Makati Sports Club A	250,000	200,000
Manila Yacht Club	610,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	550,000/720,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	-	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	140,000	100,000/260,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	360,000/450,000*	-
Orchard Golf A/ Corp*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"	180,000/380,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	Pls. Call	130,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	100,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"/"C"*	95,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/B"	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	290,000	-
Subic Golf	145,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	330,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	-	Pls. Call

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,400,000	1,500,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,600,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	80,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	105,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	180,000	210,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	280,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	12,550,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	Please Call	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	320,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,550,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,900,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	600,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	600,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	140,000	170,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	310,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	7,300,000

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PLDT seen settling $240M in maturing debts in 2003

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is confident that it will be able to settle about $240 million in principal debts falling due next year.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in an interview at the sidelines of the Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction in Metro Manila program launch Friday that the company's strong cash flow and expected dividends from cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. would help achieve this debt-reduction target.

"The total principal due in 2003 is $240 million. It's a significant target to reduce but given the continued robust cash flow of our fixed line business and dividends from Smart next year, we'll be able to achieve this," he said.

PANGILINAN

In the first nine months of the year, PLDT was able to trim its total debts by $82 million as its free cash flow continued to improve.

The telecommunications giant has also successfully concluded a liability management program that will address more than $1.3 billion in maturing obligations from this year to 2004.

With this liability management exercise, PLDT was able to raise $644 million through a $149-million refinancing facility with German development bank Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau, a $350-million global notes issuance and a $145-million multi-currency term loan facility involving 10 lenders.

After this exercise, the company said its focus would now be on reducing overall indebtedness while maintaining a strong cash flow.

Consolidated net income as of end-September grew 75 percent to P4.2 billion from last year's P2.4 billion.

While fixed line revenues declined by 4 percent to P33.6 billion, the surge in cellular revenues by 51 percent to P23.7 billion more than made up for it.

Smart continued to fuel PLDT's growth with its 36-percent net income growth to P3.8 billion from P2.8 billion last year and the acquisition of about 1.9 million new subscribers.

"The company's solid performance during the first nine months of 2002 coupled with the completion of our liability management program confirm that the fundamentals of our business are strong, and our outlook moving forward remains positive," he said.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, November 8, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	21,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43	42.5	42.5	113,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	89,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	33	31.5	32	132,600
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	1,900
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	367,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	900	900	1,090
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	9,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.46	10,580,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	427.5	427.5	415	417.5	380
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	2,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.8	36,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	234	244	234	244	305,780
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	23,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	15	15	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20	1,291,400
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.56	1.6	409,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	185,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.3	2.3	2.24	2.24	210,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	29,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.6	4.5	3.6	4.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	178,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	34	34	34	10,500
San Miguel Pure Foods A	70	70	70	70	800
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	58.5	58	58.5	770,900
San Miguel Corp. B	64.5	64.5	64	64	645,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	64,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.46	2.32	2.42	2,677,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	210,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.21	890,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	220,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	340,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	10,000,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	340,400
Ionics Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	278,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	470,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	450,000
Music Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	600,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	3,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.95	4.5	4.95	30,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.9	833,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.88	697,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	10,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10	198,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	450,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	35,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	20,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	3,373,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.94	11,510,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	14,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	4,836,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,700,000
OIL					
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	800,000

CURRENCIES

Nov. 8, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.990688	1.000000	52.8990
Japan	Yen	0.008178	0.008255	0.4367
United Kingdom	Pound	1.564989	1.579700	83.5646
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.127029	0.128223	6.7829
Switzerland	Franc	0.683186	0.689608	36.4796
Canada	Dollar	0.636648	0.642632	33.9946
Singapore	Dollar	0.562252	0.567537	30.0221
Australia	Dollar	0.561232	0.566508	29.9677
Bahrain	Dinar	2.627958	2.652661	140.3231
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.264169	0.266652	14.1056
Brunei	Dollar	0.559552	0.564812	29.8780
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.022938	0.023154	1.2248
UAE	Dirham	0.269743	0.272279	14.4033
Korea	Won	0.000808	0.000816	0.0432
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.009400	53.3963
Argentina	Real	0.279855	0.282486	14.9432
Brazil	Real	0.274125	0.276702	14.6373
Denmark	Kroner	0.134508	0.135873	7.1875
India	Rupee	0.020537	0.020730	1.0966
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.260639	0.263089	13.9171
Mexico	New Peso	0.096652	0.097561	5.1609
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494848	0.499500	26.4231
Norway	Kroner	0.136372	0.137654	7.2818
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016935	0.017094	0.9043
South Africa	Rand	0.101378	0.102331	5.4132
Sweden	Kroner	0.109236	0.019417	1.0271
Syria	Pound	0.019236	0.019417	1.0271
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028758	0.029028	1.5356
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000721	0.000728	0.0385

Stocks seen to consolidate

From page B1

Globe Telecoms and San Miguel Corp.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the cut by the US Fed had raised hopes that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would find enough elbow room to keep local interest rates steady despite pressures arising from the government's ballooning budget deficit.

Ravelas said Friday's closing level was a clear manifestation of the testing of the 1,070 support level.

"Expect the market to further test the 1,100. Bear in mind that the present levels as resistance levels and might encounter some difficulty in sustaining the uptrend," Ravelas said.

Only a break above the resistance at 1,250 will indicate a major reversal, Ravelas said.

BPI Securities said the market's failure to breach the 1,084 resistance level last week suggested some consolidation, but noted that fresh attempts to ascend would be seen this week.

It said investors might exercise caution in the days ahead, but the releases of more corporate earnings would still provide the catalyst.

"The market's recent rally is encouraging. The sustained break above the 1,140 may indicate continued strength for the market until year-end," it said.

Next week, among the corporate results being eagerly awaited by the market are those of Ayala Land Inc., Ayala Corp. and Benpres Holdings Corp.

"Optimism spread to local corporations as investors discounted full-year 2002 earnings with the release of third-quarter results. The fairly positive results so far have renewed hopes that companies will be able to register stronger earnings performances in the coming year," it said.

BPI Securities lamented, however, that value turnover remained weak despite double-digit index gains.

Stock market portal Philstocks.net agreed that trading this week would be subdued after the market's rebound last week.

Doris C. Dumlao

Cebu Pacific, PAL in new row over Japan flights

By Raul C. Dancel

CEBU Pacific Air, the country's second largest airline, is engaging No. 1 carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. in another dogfight, this time over the lucrative Japanese market.

A person familiar with the matter told the Inquirer that Cebu Pacific—controlled by the family of retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.—is seeking the right to operate at least two weekly flights between the Philippines and Japan.

The Philippine government was recently able to secure two new "coefficients" from Tokyo.

A "coefficient" is a unit of measurement used in the aviation industry that roughly refers to the number of seats an aircraft has.

Generally, one coefficient equals one weekly flight for a narrow-bodied aircraft like a Boeing 757, which has about 179 seats. A wide-bodied aircraft like an Airbus A330, on the other hand, is equal to two coefficients because it seats about 300 passengers.

The two new coefficients, therefore, are equivalent to two flights a week using a small 757 or just one using the bigger A330.

Cebu Pacific wants to get those slots, which PAL has already staked a claim on.

The Philippines currently has 43 coefficients, which are equivalent to about 25 flights a week. All are being used by PAL.

An industry executive who joined the air services talks between Manila and Tokyo disclosed that the Philippine government was also able to free up 6.5 coefficients out of the allocations already spelled out in the old agreement.

"Under the agreement, there is a provision that says if the Japanese side engages in flights beyond Manila, then Philippine carriers will be entitled to an additional two (coefficients), but that is already provided for in the old agreement. They (the Japanese) only acknowledged it in the last talks," she said.

This "beyond Manila" provision means two more flights using a 757 for the Philippines since a Japanese carrier, Nippon Cargo, was already exercising its "beyond Manila" privilege.

"So that's 43, plus two under the old, plus two under the new," the industry executive said.

She added that PAL's existing 43 coefficients were also adjusted with the reconfiguration of the airline's A330s, freeing up four more coefficients.

Under the old agreement, PAL's A330s were assigned a coefficient of 2 because these had 302 seats, exceeding the limit for those with a coefficient of 1.5 by just two seats.

In the new agreement, Japan agreed to give these aircraft a coefficient of only 1.5, freeing up four more coefficients.

All in all, the Philippine side was able to open up 8.5 coefficients, or roughly eight flights using a 757 or four using an A330.

Cebu Pacific, PAL and two other airlines are contesting these allocations.

Prior to the talks between Manila and Tokyo, Cebu Pacific asked for at least seven coefficients.

Multitel's Ponzi scam …

From page B1

administrative clerk of Eastern Telecom's cooperative, which lent money to members at low annual interest rates.

Those who met Rose in the past year described her as a "glittering spectacle." Seven- to 10-karat diamonds as large as marbles adorned her ears, neck, wrists and most of her fingers.

Partial to all things symbolizing the heart, she wore a large stunning heart-shaped pendant that had 12 karats alone.

"She never takes them off even in the shower because a feng shui adviser told her this would ward off negative influences," a person close to Baladjay's inner circle said.

Multitel and its conduits

Concerned and suspicious about the high interest rates offered by Multitel, from 4 percent a month to as much as 12 percent, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas reportedly asked the SEC to look into Multitel's activities in late 2000.

In March 2001, the SEC issued a cease and desist order against Multitel, its officers, directors, agents and representatives, telling them to stop from further accepting investments from the public as the number of lenders and investors had already amounted to 238.

The SEC lifted the order in June that year subject to an audit of Multitel's full compliance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

A subsequent audit by the SEC's inspection and surveillance division and ocular inspection, however, revealed that Multitel was still violating the country's securities laws by using 12 conduit corporations and cooperatives. These had such names as the Everflow Group of Companies, One-Heart Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc., Sage Management Corp. and Star Enterprise Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. These companies were used to accept investments from the public.

"In effect, the lending activities were coursed through these corporations and cooperatives to make it appear that the number of investors and lenders does not exceed 19," a member of the SEC's inspection and surveillance division said in an affidavit.

Morphing

As a result, the SEC issued in January this year another cease-and-desist order, this time also directing Multitel's conduits to stop their investment-taking activities. By that time, Baladjay had already learned a few lessons.

In September 2001, she registered Multitel International Holdings Inc., or MIHI, which had its principal office at the eighth floor of one of the premier addresses in Makati, the Enterprise Tower 2 along Ayala Ave.

SEC officials said MIHI inherited Multitel's alleged illegal activities.

Rose and Ninoy owned 99.99 percent of MIHI's subscribed capital stock, while Julius Gonzalo Fuentebella, Marissa Castulo and Conrado Ariola were named nominal stockholders of MIHI and other incorporators of MIHI.

The scheme

One investor believed MIHI was launched full blast in late 2001. At that time, the Baladjays were already living at 309 San Antonio St. across the house of TV host and comedian Vic Sotto in Ayala Alabang, a posh residential village in southern Metro Manila, where many of the country's "who's who" lived.

The log-books of the guards manning the entry gates to the subdivision were soon quickly filled by the names of investors who dropped by either to pick up cash or checks from Rose or process other paperwork.

"She would throw lavish and ostentatious parties, two to three times a week," one of those who attended several of the parties said.

For the baptism of her child, Baladjay, who is said to be around in her late 30s or early 40s, spent around P6 million, the person said, adding that during the parties: "She would give the waiters P2,500, the managers P5,000 and the janitors P10,000."

The entertainers she would sometimes hire were pricey stars like Martin Nievera and Lani Misalucha.

Her cars included a couple of BMWs, a Volvo sedan and a Ford sport-utility vehicle, all of them bullet-proof. Expensive Chinese figurines stocked her house.

When a Batangas resort—the Residence Inn—was put up for sale, she participated in the auction and beat even tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan by paying cash up front.

Big-time buying

Earlier this year, she got it in her head to acquire the Enterprise building along Ayala Ave. by buying out the owners, which included Anscor, San Miguel Corp. and the Kuok Group of Hong Kong.

She set aside P2 billion for this, but this was insufficient. For the food and beverage giant's 29-percent stake alone, San Miguel president Ramon Ang wanted P2.8 billion. Her efforts rebuffed, she still was said to have paid P8 million to an alleged close associate of Presidential Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's publicist, Dante Ang.

There was also talk at that time that she was considering investing in Bankwise, a thrift bank that the president's publicist had become chair of through an investment with investment banker Bobby Guevara's Seed Capital.

The acquisition of a majority stake in the bank remains cloudy to this day. *(To be continued)*

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EXHIBITORS:

FREE ENTRANCE

Ace Hardware
(Ace paint)
Crosby Group/Benedicto Steel Corp.
(Crosby fittings for wire ropes and chains, chains for lifting, wire ropes)
Cummins Sales & Service Phils. Inc.
(Cummins power generation gensets, parts; Fleetguard filtration products)
Decopro Inc.
(La Habra exterior and interior wall finishes, ceiling finish; Miracote floor finish)
Detex Corporation
(Detex loss prevention products; emergency exit devices; access control systems)
Donaldson Filtration (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd.
(Donaldson air and liquid filtration products)
Gillest Holdings Inc.
(In Sink Erator food waste disposers)
Lincoln Electric Philippines
(welding equipment/consummables, fume extractors, profile cutters, gas equipment)
Rich Innovation Marketing Inc.
(Zar wood stain and clear finish, Drylok masonry waterproofer/stucco paint/floor paint)
U.S. Commercial Service
(catalogs of U.S. construction product s/equipment suppliers)

SEMINARS:

FREE SEMINARS

Exit Devices and Safety and Security Products
by **Detex Corporation**
Nov. 14 (Thursday), 4:00-5:00 p.m.

New Filtration Products and Technology
by **Donaldson Filtration**
Nov. 15 (Friday), 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Decopro – The Finishing Touch
by **Decopro**
Nov. 16 (Saturday), 5:00-6:00 p.m.

The free seminars will be held at the stage area of Philconstruct 2002.

For inquiries, kindly contact Bebe Montesines/Loli Rivera at Phone: 888-6077; 888-4081 to 98 ext. 5825/Fax: 888-6606.

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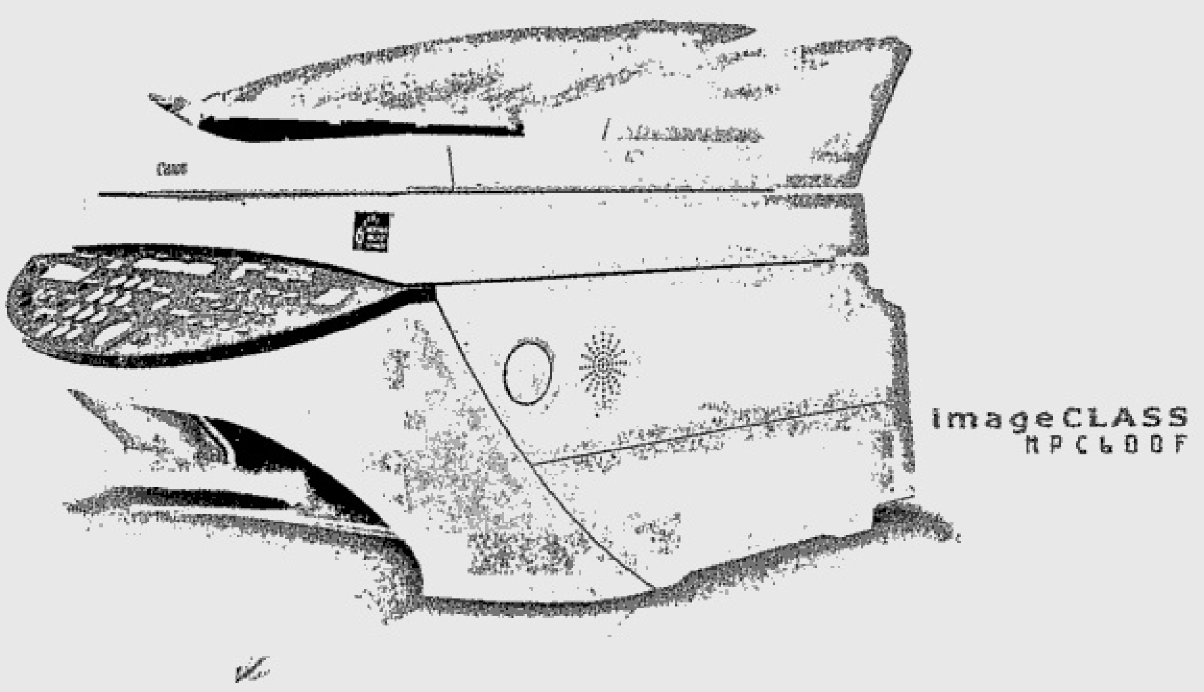

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Fears of war on Iraq hound US economy

WASHINGTON—Fears of a war on Iraq may already be reining in the US economy by delaying business investment plans and stepping up risk premiums on stocks and corporate bonds, experts said Friday.

As the UN Security Council approved a US-drafted resolution giving Iraq a last chance to disarm, however, experts said the effect on consumers probably would be muted until war approached.

The critical US shopping season, which accounts for 40 to 50 percent of sales for some retail companies, was likely to be unaffected, economists said.

"Credit risk premiums in both the equity market and the corporate bond market are higher than otherwise because of fears surrounding Iraq," said Moody's Investors Service chief economist John Lonski.

On Wall Street, the Iraqi conflict fears combined with corporate profit concerns to pull down the Dow Jones industrials average, which fell 49.11 points, or 0.57 percent, to 8,537.13.

"It may very well be that a conflict with Iraq that goes poorly would serve as the most likely trigger mechanism for a double dip recession," Lonski warned.

If an attack went awry, he said, sharply higher oil prices coupled with greater than anticipated casualties would further diminish business and consumer confidence.

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that the Iraqi tensions were dragging on US economic activity when it slashed the key federal funds rate target by half a percentage point to a new 41-year low of 1.25 percent.

"Incoming economic data have tended to confirm that greater uncertainty, in part attributable to heightened geopolitical risks, is currently inhibiting spending, production, and employment," it said.

Concerns over Iraq were also cited in a private Conference Board survey that showed consumer confidence plunged to a nine-year low in October. Job fears also were a major factor.

Most analysts expect US economic growth to decline to less than 2 percent in the fourth quarter as consumer spending drops, largely due to lower auto sales, after third quarter growth of a 3.1 percent.

Joel Naroff, president and chief economist of Naroff Economic Advisors, said businesses were likely delaying 2003 investment plans to later in the year, even if they were not actually canceling them.

"If Iraq turns out to be a problem they have got their investment plans backloaded so they don't have to do them, and if it turns out not to be a problem they can go through with them," he said.

"That is creating some conservative decision-making right now." But the impact on consumers, whose spending accounts for two-thirds of economic activity, was harder to assess.

"The huge declines we saw in consumer confidence were in part Iraq, they were also in part in October the Washington snipers, Naroff said, referring to random shootings in the Washington area in which 10 people were killed.

Much of that slump in confidence would likely be restored in November, he forecast.

"It is not overly clear that the consumer has been affected in their actual decision-making but there is uncertainty and concern there," Naroff said.

"Even today's resolution passing does not put it necessarily on the front burner until Bush starts preparing the country for war. That is not going to happen until the inspectors get in," the economist said.

"I suspect that since it has gone on the back burner, it is not going to have significant impact on the holiday selling season, which is critical," he added.

So far, the Iraqi tensions appeared to have had a relatively low impact on crude oil price movements, said Tim O'Neill, chief US economist at the Bank of Montreal.

Softening consumer spending appeared to more closely linked to the weak jobs market than Iraq, he said. *AFP*

US data eyed for clues to economic outlook

LONDON—Markets surprised by an aggressive Federal Reserve interest rate cut on Wednesday will this week look to key US data and a speech by Fed chair Alan Greenspan for clues to the global economic outlook.

US October retail sales figures and industrial production data will provide the focus after the unexpected half percentage point US rate cut sparked fears the world's biggest economy is in worse shape than widely thought.

"After weak US retail sales numbers for September, markets will be looking to see if that weakness is carrying through into the fourth quarter," said Kelly Tonkin, European economist at Lehman Brothers.

"There are concerns the US consumer is losing some pace.

Markets will be looking to see how much pace they have lost."

The interest rate outlook will also be key on the other side of the Atlantic after the European Central Bank and the Bank of England decided to leave rates unchanged this week.

Germany's ZEW economic outlook survey comes out on Tuesday and the ECB's monthly report on Thursday could provide clues as to if and when the euro zone's central bank will cut rates.

"The economic case for a rate cut in euroland is pretty overwhelming," BNP Paribas said in a research note on Friday.

"The most likely date is December. The upcoming data over the next month will increase the chances of this."

Greenspan speaks at a central bankers meeting on Monday and testifies on the economic outlook before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee on Wednesday.

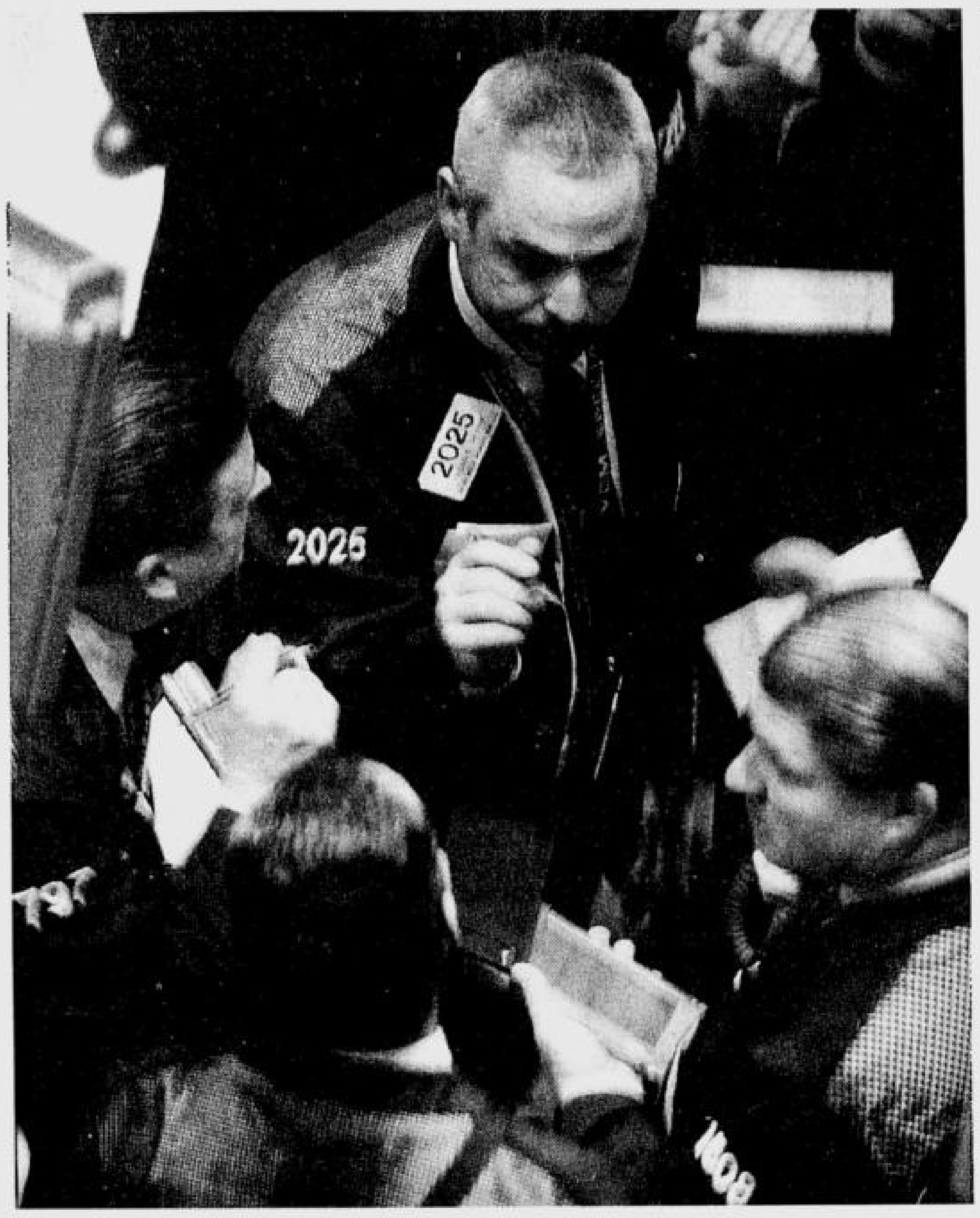
October US retail sales data on Thursday is expected to show a slight rise in consumer confidence. A Reuters forecast put the month on month increase at 0.2 percent, excluding car sales, or flat with autos included.

The University of Michigan index of consumer confidence for November and October US industrial production figures come out on Friday.

Lehman Brothers' Tonkin said the markets will look at the week's US data to see how much momentum had been lost going into the fourth quarter of 2002.

BNP Paribas said the consumer confidence figure would provide some relief, predicting it would rise slightly on the back of a recovery in stocks over the last month.

A Reuters poll put the preliminary November index at 81.3, compared with 80.6 for October. *Reuters*



TRADERS work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 49.25 points to close at 8,536.99 as of Nov. 8. AFP

New minister to steer Japan's recovery

TOKYO—The Japanese government on Friday appointed a new minister in charge of economic revival who will set guidelines to determine which troubled companies should go under.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi chose lawmaker Sadakazu Tanigaki to head Japan's "industrial rebirth," a new Cabinet portfolio, the Cabinet Office said.

Japan has announced it is going to get serious about wiping out the huge bad debts at the nation's banks that are stifling economic recovery.

The government estimates the loans gone sour at about 40 trillion yen ($330 billion), but private analysts say the actual figure may be three times larger.

Public broadcaster NHK showed Koizumi and Tanigaki, who also serves as chief of the National Public Safety Commission, shaking hands after the appointment.

"I would like to start preparations immediately," Tanigaki said in an NHK interview, adding that the challenge was to strike a balance between tough and careful approaches. "If we are too cautious, then there will be no progress."

Tanigaki, former head of the Science and Technology Agency, is expected to work with the economy and financial services minister, Heizo Takenaka, and other Cabinet officials to come up with details of an economic package before next month.

But he faces a big challenge.

Japan has been struggling in a slowdown for more than 10 years. The government says the downturn bottomed out this year but growth remains dependent on exports. *AP*

Wall Street must cure itself—execs

BOCA RATON, Florida—The glaring lack of investor confidence in Wall Street was the topic of the moment at the industry's annual meeting this week, and executives said they have no one to turn to for help but themselves.

"Four out of 10 investors say dishonesty is the main issue facing the securities industry today," said John Schaefer, head of Morgan Stanley's brokerage unit.

"That is a very sad comment indeed, and we all have to take some responsibility for that," he said at the Securities Industry Association's annual meeting in Florida on Friday.

Regulators and the industry's 10 biggest firms, including Merrill Lynch and Citigroup, are negotiating a settlement to address potential stock research abuses. Critics charge stock analysts issue overly bullish reports—misleading to investors—to help their investment banker colleagues win lucrative underwriting and advisory mandates.

Some of the firms are expected to pay fines as part of the accord, and Merrill already shelled out $100 million to settle charges of biased research.

The conference's attendees, in between rounds of golf and tennis matches at the posh Boca Raton Resort & Club, listened to speeches from New York Stock Exchange chair Richard Grasso, UBS PaineWebber chief executive Joseph Grano and even outgoing Securities and Exchange Commissioner Harvey Pitt.

Floor-to-ceiling banners emblazoned with the words "strength, pride, trust and integrity" served as the backdrop on stage as industry leaders addressed the conference.

Critics have charged Wall Street with issuing misleading stock research, bribing executives with shares of initial public offerings, and contributing to the Enron and WorldCom debacles. That, combined with declining stock markets and a weak economy, has put the pressure on brokerages and banks.

"The public, more so than ever before, is questioning who we are and the value we bring to serving clients," said NYSE head Grasso.

Most executives acknowledged the difficult market environment, accepted some culpability and emphasized that regulation only goes so far—meaning firms, themselves, must ensure they act with utmost integrity to restore the industry's battered reputation.

"Your firms really are the front line of compliance," said Robert Glauber, chairman of NASD, formerly known as the National Association of Securities Dealers and one of the industry's most influential self-regulatory organizations.

"A reputation for playing it straight and doing things right is a competitive asset in a competitive industry," Glauber said.

To move past what might be described as the industry's "darkest chapter," Grasso said conference participants should leave the gathering recommitted to their most valuable asset—their customers. *Reuters*

OECD, EU to trim eurozone growth forecasts

LONDON—The European Commission and OECD are both about to slash their 2003 economic growth forecasts for the euro zone to around 2 percent, recognizing recovery will be slow to materialize, draft figures showed on Friday.

The figures, given to Reuters by an EU government source, will add to concerns about the world economy stoked this week by the aggressive half point cut in US interest rates, seen as an indicator of the depth of concern at the Federal Reserve.

They show the commission is marking down growth projections for the 12-country single currency union next year to 2.0 from a previous 2.9 percent.

Similarly, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development projects the euro zone will grow at 1.9 percent next year, a sharp downward revision from 2.9 percent it had forecast in its spring outlook.

The commission now expects German GDP growth at 1.7 percent, a full percentage point trimmer than previously. France is seen growing at 2.1 with Italy at 1.9 percent, down from 2.8 and 2.7 percent respectively.

The European Central Bank (ECB), which held the cost of money steady this week despite mounting economic woes, said it also will be monitoring closely the downside growth risks in the economy.

The OECD's growth forecast for this year has been trimmed to 0.7 percent from 1.3 percent with Europe's biggest economy, Germany, seen just narrowly escaping recession with growth of 0.2 percent.

The EU Commission sees German growth at just 0.3 percent this year, the figures showed.

The OECD, which groups the world's most developed economies, has already made clear its new outlook, due Nov. 21, will be less optimistic than the April report which was based on hopes for a speedy rebound from the downturn that followed the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The fresh forecasts chime in with a key OECD indicator for the Group of Seven rich industrialized nations, which slipped on Friday for a third consecutive month.

The indicator for the United States, released just two days after the US rate cut, dropped particularly sharply.

In the euro zone, the European Central Bank has kept rates unchanged for a year now, resisting political pressure to help the sputtering economy with a rate cut. *Reuters*

McDonald's to close stores, eliminate jobs

CHICAGO—McDonald's Corp. again lowered its earnings forecast for the year and announced Friday that it is pulling out of three countries and closing restaurants in about 10 other nations as part of a restructuring aimed at righting its flagging fortunes.

The fast-food giant also plans to restructure operations in four nations and eliminate up to 600 jobs in order to control costs and reallocate its resources.

McDonald's operates in 121 countries—soon to be 118—and has 30,000 restaurants worldwide, less than half in the United States.

"These actions are the right things to do for McDonald's shareholders, the brand and our business," said chair and CEO Jack Greenberg. "We remain focused on growing our existing restaurants' sales and we're committed to making the changes necessary to succeed."

McDonald's shares fell almost 8 percent, or $1.52, to close at $17.79 each in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

In seven of the past eight quarters, the Oak Brook, Illinois-based company has reported lower profits than in the comparable period as it struggles in a crowded restaurant market. Analysts said Friday's announcement is part of a previously announced plan that includes slower expansion, an overhaul of US restaurants and its first big price-discounting campaign since 1997.

McDonald's said it expects the actions to reduce its fourth quarter 2002 pretax income by about $350 million to $425 million, most of which will be non-cash. While sales were up in October and through the first 10 months of the year, "we were targeting stronger results for the month as well as the entire fourth quarter," Greenberg said. *AP*

Microsoft forms internal policing group

WASHINGTON—Microsoft Corp. took early steps Friday to begin obeying court-approved sanctions in its antitrust case, appointing three of its existing board members to a new committee responsible for making sure the software maker doesn't break the rules.

The appointments satisfy one requirement that US District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly imposed against Microsoft on behalf of nine states that had rejected a settlement the company negotiated with the justice department.

The judge ordered Microsoft to allow computer makers and customers to remove icons for some Microsoft features, share some technical information with rivals, agree to uniform contracts with computer makers and agree not to participate in exclusive deals that could hurt competitors.

The new committee is one of two oversight groups established under the judge's rulings. The justice department and state attorneys general also can file complaints with the judge if Microsoft fails to abide by the sanctions.

The new committee, led by Harvard University business professor James I. Cash Jr., 54, of Boston, will hire at an unspecified future date a compliance officer who will enforce the judge's sanctions.

Microsoft will almost certainly pay that officer's salary, but those financial arrangements and the exact day-to-day responsibilities of the three-person committee are among "many things that will have to be spelled out," said Brad Smith, Microsoft's general counsel.

The other new committee members are Ann McLaughlin Korologos, 60, of Washington, former labor secretary under President Ronald Reagan; and Raymond V. Gilmartin, 61, of New Jersey, president and chief executive at Merck & Co. Inc., one of the largest US drug companies. All joined Microsoft's board after January 2000.

As board members, each is paid $35,000 by Microsoft. Last year, they also received options to buy 10,000 shares of Microsoft, according to Microsoft's securities filings.

In creating the committee, Microsoft's board explicitly acknowledged the additional oversight by the government.

Directors said the board "recognizes and appreciates the important roles the Department of Justice and each of the state attorneys general will play in their oversight of Microsoft's compliance." *AP*

22 finance firms lack capital, SEC reports

By Elena R. Torrijos

TWENTY-TWO out of nearly 200 financing companies in the country had impaired capitals as of mid-2002, while nine had low solvency ratios, the Securities and Exchange Commission has disclosed.

Advent Capital & Finance Corp.—formerly All Asia Capital and Trust Corp.—had the largest amount of impaired capital, with a negative P3.1 billion, followed by Macondray Finance Corp., negative P458 million; and, Mercator Finance Corp., negative P111 million.

The financing industry registered a net loss of P1.2 billion in the first half, largely because of Advent Capital, which incurred a net loss of P1.486 billion.

Other financing companies with impaired—particularly negative—capital included ASB Finance Inc., IBA Finance Corp., Infinite Investment & Finance Corp., Jardine Pacific Finance Inc., Associates Finance Inc., East Oceanic Leasing and Finance Corp., and Pilipinas Automotive Credit Corp.

Those with unimpaired but positive capital were Astra Finance Corp., Chailease Finance & Inv. Corp., Conglomerate Securities and Finance Corp., Fil-Estate Finance Corp., Hexagon Financing Crop., ICC Leasing and Finance Corp., Isla Finance Corp., Johnstown Finance Corp., Magdiwang Finance and Investment Crop., Libra Finance and Investment Corp., Monarch Finance Corp., and Hunter Finance Inc.

Financing companies with solvency ratios below one-to-one were Advent Capital, ASB Finance, Associates Finance, IBA Finance, Infinite Investment and Finance Corp., Jardine Pacific Finance, East Oceanic, Macondray, and Mercator Finance.

In terms of net income, PCI Leasing and Finance Corp. topped the list, with P106 million followed by BPI Leasing Corp., P60 million; and, Orix Metro Leasing and Finance Corp., P32 million.

Petron starts dismantling depot

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PETRON Corp. has started taking down three of 16 fuel tanks in its Pandacan terminal.

In a statement, the oil giant said the move was in preparation for its plan to put up a depot it would share with Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex (Philippines) Inc. and a "green buffer zone" around the Pandacan facility.

"While commercial arrangements are still being discussed with (Pilipinas Shell and Caltex), we decided to proceed with the dismantling of our storage tanks to ensure that the buffer zone project is completed the soonest," Petron corporate communications manager Virginia Ruivivar said.

Ruivivar added that the three storage tanks, which accounted for a total capacity of 46,000 barrels, would be fully decommissioned by year-end.

More tanks will go down early next year, as Petron has committed to dismantle 16 tanks.

"We are fully committed to the scale down of the Pandacan terminals in line with (the Manila city hall's) intent to promote sound urban planning and ensure the health and public safety of those living in the Pandacan and Sta. Ana area," Ruivivar said.

She said Petron was going ahead with the project in a manner that would avoid unnecessary disruption of product supply.

The Big Three's Pandacan terminals supply almost 90 percent of the fuel needs of Metro Manila and neighboring provinces Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

The Big Three and the Manila city government agreed to scale down the Pandacan depots instead of a relocation through a memorandum of understanding signed on June 27.

The three oil firms' business permits were supposed to expire on June 30 following an ordinance reclassifying the Pandacan area from industrial to commercial.

The ordinance was passed in November last year amid fears of terrorist attacks similar to the World Trade Center incident in the United States two months earlier.

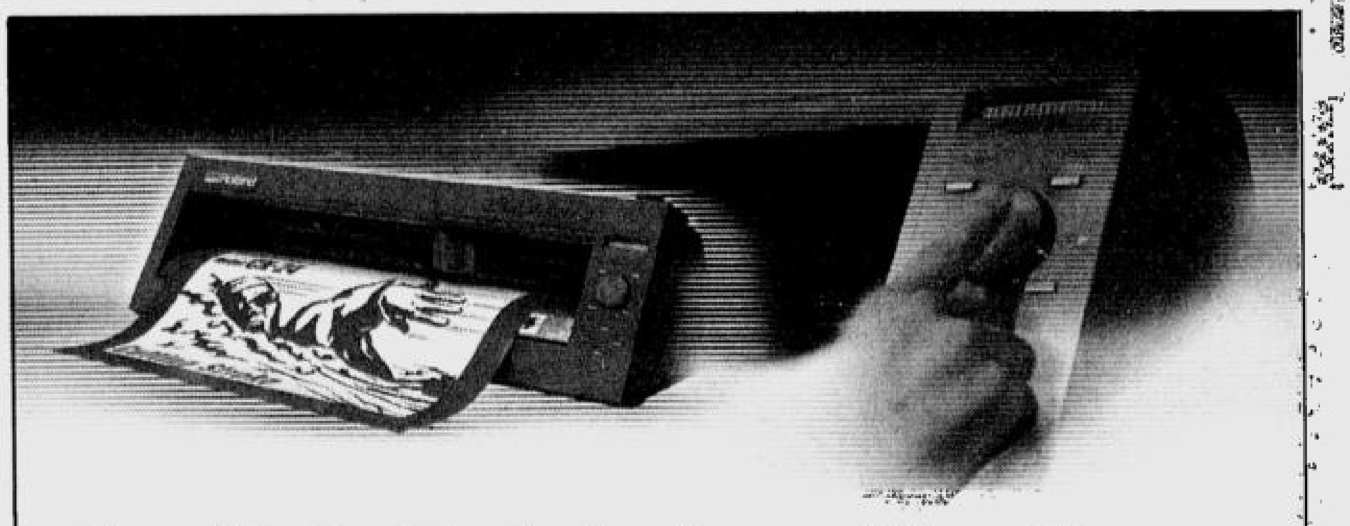
Caltex earlier said it completed the dismantling of six tanks it committed to take down.

Caltex officials said the six tanks had a total storage capacity of 69,000 barrels. Removing them cost the firm P50 million.

Pilipinas Shell, on the other hand, is in the process of dismantling two spheres used for storing liquefied petroleum gas—one with a capacity of 300 metric tons and another with 500 metric tons.

Pilipinas Shell said the two spheres would be completely removed within the year, after which a third sphere with a capacity of 1,500 metric tons.

The three oil giants would remove a total of 28 tanks representing 40 percent of their depots total storage capacity.



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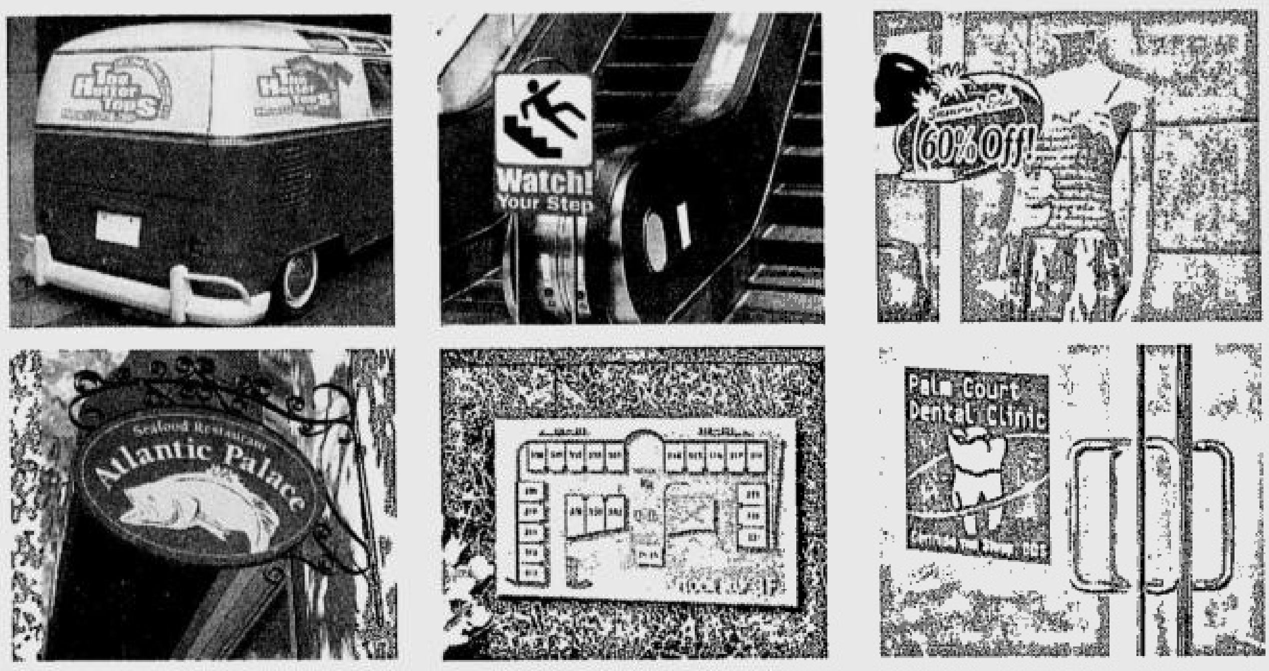

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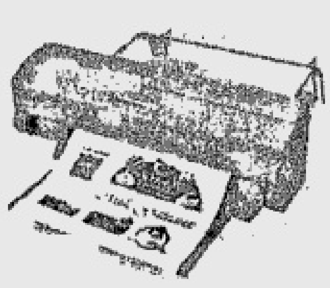

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Vegetable imports to top RP-China bilateral talks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

VEGETABLE imports will be at the core of bilateral negotiations between the Philippines and China as part of a framework agreement for the formation of a free trade area between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China by 2010.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said China would seek wider access for its unprocessed agricultural products, primarily vegetables.

China is already one of the country's biggest sources of vegetable imports, mainly onion, garlic and cabbage, both legitimate and smuggled, and the government has been under pressure from vegetable growers.

The Bureau of Statistics has said China accounted for 60 percent of total onion imports in 2001.

The Department of Agriculture reported that China was the main source of smuggled vegetables in Divisoria and Northern Luzon.

The reduction of tariffs and lifting of import restrictions over the past few years as part of the country's World Trade Organization commitment has opened the doors for the entry of cheap vegetable imports that have threatened to supplant the entire vegetable market in the Philippines.

Since tariffs were slashed to an average of 12 percent in 1999, vegetable imports have surged from 10,000 kilos in 1999 to 1.1 million kilos in 2000 and 2 million kilos in 2001.

Landbank reports P1.15B in 3rd-quarter net income

LAND Bank of the Philippines has said its net income rose to P1.15 billion as of the third quarter from P833 million in the second quarter on cost-cutting measures.

Landbank president Margarito Teves said the country's fifth largest lender was on track to meeting its net income target of P1.65 billion this year.

The bank has so far managed to bring down its non-performing loans ratio to 18 percent from 23 percent last year.

Total loans, according to Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz stood at P104 billion as of September.

Cruz said the bad loans ratio went down, as Landbank pursued a more aggressive restructuring with delinquent creditors.

The bank's lending to the farm sector improved to 45 percent of total credit from 40 percent a year earlier, he added, while commercial loans fell to 65 percent, he said.

"We are on track to meeting our target of increasing agriculture-related loans to 60 percent by 2004," he said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

US envoy lauds IPP review

US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone Jr. has expressed confidence that the ongoing review of the National Power Corp.'s contracts with its independent power producers will result in a "win-win situation" for both the government and investors.

Ricciardone, during his recent visit to Mirant Philippines' Sual coal-fired power plant in Pangasinan, said both the government and the IPPs recognized that they should both emerge as winners at the end of the review.

"US IPPs have been keeping me well informed about what's happening and they're very optimistic because they know that all sides understand that each one has a stake in each other's success. All seem to be moving smartly toward resolution," he said. *Abigail L. Ho*

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World Children's day at McDonald's Nov. 20

THERE is so much to be said about McDonald's, the dining phenomenon that is now one of the most familiar names in the world. McDonald's changed the nature of fast food since it opened more than 45 years ago: It has grown to an unprecedented conglomerate of stores and franchisees all over the world.

Despite the mass appeal of its burgers and fries, its greatest asset has been the red-haired clown in the yellow jumpsuit and signature red shoes. Undoubtedly the star of the whole brand's fast food show, Ronald McDonald has been one of the most distinct characters of the last few decades, outshining every other clown there is in show business, and establishing himself as a quasi-celebrity revered by kids even more than most Hollywood icons.

Unlike costume mascots, Ronald McDonald is a real but magical person. He comes all the way from McDonald Land to entertain and be a friend to kids from all walks of life. And since he is a real person he has a schedule to attend to and cannot always be present at every store. Yet although he may not be able to attend every birthday bash that takes place in McDonald's stores, he does have plans to make every child in the world happy.

This Nov. 20, he wants to meet all his friends and meet new ones in a grand celebration on the first World Children's Day.

"By simply visiting their local McDonald's restaurants on Wednesday, Nov 20, people everywhere can join this worldwide effort to help children," said Kenneth Yang, president of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC).

McDonald's World Children's Day is the first-ever worldwide simultaneous fundraiser for children in their communities that will take place at McDonald's 30,000 restaurants in 121 countries. Because of McDonald's unique position to reach children all over the world, McDonald's has embarked on this landmark worldwide effort to bring joy to children.

The RMHC in global perspective, the event's beneficiary, is a non-profit program that creates, finds and supports programs for the improved health and well-being of children. Its cornerstone programs include Ronald McDonald Houses which house families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals and Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles, mobile healthcare clinics for underserved children. The program was named one of America's Top 100 Charities by Worth magazine. In this program, a McDonald house is built in every country to house these children. In the Philippines, the first house, to be called Bahay Bulilit, which will be a day care center, will open Nov. 20 at East Rembo, Makati.

A total of P30 million of McDonald's grants has been bestowed upon the different childcare initiatives of different organizations in the Philippines alone. These include the St. Luke's Medical Center Expanded Program of Immunization, the Leukemic Endowment Fund (LIFE), the Welcome Home Foundation for deaf children, Operation Smile and Interplast (for the supply of intravenous fluids, food and other requirements for children), the Child in Health and Development (CHILD) grant for the Philippine General Hospital, and the Philippine Children's Medical Center (purchase of infant ventilator). Grants were also given to house 400 street children and the production of Braille textbooks to help blind children.

Around the world, a series of high-profile events will take place leading up to Nov. 20, including walkathons, car washes and the like. Celebrities participating in the actual celebration of World Children's Day in the United States include Grammy Award-winning musician David Foster, actor Justin Berfield of the Fox TV show "Malcolm in the Middle" and singer Celine Dion.

The celebration activities vary per country. In the Philippines, kids are invited to share in the magic of Ronald McDonald in Star City on Nov. 16 in the "It's Ronald's Grand Carnival Day!" Kids will meet their favorite clown, enjoy endless free rides, shop at a toy bazaar, enjoy all-day fun and magic shows, and for those coming to Star City between 8 a.m. to 12 noon get a bag of McDonald's goodies. McDonald's has subsidized the Carnival's entrance fee, from P200 to P100 from 8 a.m. until 12 noon, and P120 from 12 noon onwards. Tickets are available at McDonald's restaurants.

On Nov 18, the McDonald's World Children's Day Charity Ball heats up the Grand Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The fundraiser features an RMHC presentation, a charity auction and a Broadway concert featuring Boy Abunda, Ogie Alcasid, and Regine Velasquez, with the special participation of the Mandaluyong Children's Choir, the Whiplash and Lynn Sherman with Ugoy-Ugoy Band. The World Children's Day (WCD) song composed by David Foster will also be performed. Tickets to the show are available to the public at P3,000 apiece.

The series of events kicked off October, declared as National Children's Month by virtue of Proclamation No. 267, which dedicates this time to Filipino children in recognition of their vital role in community life and natin-building.

THE 2002 PHILIPPINE AUTOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION
"BUILDING A FUTURE TO AUTOMOTIVE RETAIL INDUSTRY"

PAA HOLDS 2002 FORUM

The Philippine Automotive Association (PAA) held recently its 2002 Forum at Edsa Shangri-la. Shown is one of the guest speakers, Vicente T. Mills Jr., giving a point on the future of automotive dealers in the country. Shown seated are (from left) Leo J. Ferreria, PAA VP, Ramon T. Goh, director, Michael N. Cheng, secretary, George F. Blaylock, PAA president, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, guest speaker, Amando San Juan, treasurer, and Paul N. Ching and Kurt S. Bachmann Jr., directors.

MALANG GRACES 3RD NIDO LITTLE ARTISTS EXHIBIT

Mauro 'Malang' Santos, one of the country's most respected painters and Cultural Center of the Philippines' Gawad Awardee for Visual Arts in 1994, led the opening of the recent 3rd Nido Little Artists Exhibit at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati. The art exhibit is the culminating activity of the Nido Little Artists Workshop held annually in partnership with art schools in Metro Manila and other key cities nationwide. The workshop and the exhibit encourage young artists to develop their interest and talents in visual arts. 201 entries were submitted in this year's Nido Little Artist. With Malang at the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left) CCP president Nestor Jardin, Saturday Group member Magoo Valencia, Nido brand manager Michelle Calo and Nido brand events specialist Johann Tanpho.

Enjoy the experience of healthy glowing skin

VASELINE LOTION GIVES MOMS HEALTHY FEET

Moms can now enjoy the experience of healthy glowing skin all over their body with Vaseline Lotion. On Sept 28 and 29, the Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin Tour visited Robinsons Galleria Supermarket and gave shoppers the chance to relieve their feet and hands for a minimum purchase of any Vaseline Lotion variant. Mommy shoppers enjoyed a relaxing foot and hand massage and the feeling of healthy soft and smooth skin with Vaseline Lotion amidst the busy crowd. Definitely, this was a much-welcome break during a busy shopping day. The Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin Tour brings the experience of healthy and nourished skin closer to everyone, especially busy moms. Be on the lookout for the next Vaseline Lotion Healthy skin tour coming to an area near you.

BITS & Clips

DLSU-D calls for papers

THE ORGANIZING committee of De La Salle University-Dasmarinas' Regional Workshop on Pedagogy, Technology and Synergism (PTechs 2003) is calling on teachers, school administrators, specialists and representatives of government and private agencies as well as partners of the academe to submit papers for oral and poster/mural presentation. Papers may deal with various topics and issues related to pedagogy. Deadline for submission of papers is on Nov. 18. Meanwhile, the seminar-workshop sponsored by the university's Graduate School of Education, Arts and Sciences (GSeas) and the Information Technology Center will be held on Jan. 17 and 18, 2003 at the Severino delas Alas Hall, DLSU-Dasmarinas. For more inquiries on the workshop and the papers, call Dr. Nieves Medina or Dr. Jimmy Masagca at 844-7832, (046)416-4577, or 416-4531 local 3092.

Guapo Gimiks from Master

NOW YOU get more than just a great product in every bottle of Master Facial Cleanser and Block & White Skin Whitening Lotion in the Guapo Gimiks and Personal Pleasures sticker promos. Each bottle of Master Facial Cleanser or Block & White comes with discount stickers. The bigger the bottle, the more discount stickers you get. Participating outlets are Cardam's David's Salon, Gutson's, Toby's Sports, Mossimo, and the Astoria Plaza Hotel. Simply present the bottle with the attached discount sticker/s, and you can get discounts from 5 to 25 percent on various products and services. Participating brands for this promo are Sara Lee's Master Facial Cleanser (any variant in 70, 135 and 225 ml) and Block & White Skin Whitening Lotion (SPF 100 and 200 ml, and Ultima 50 and 100 ml). Sticker promos are ongoing until Nov. 15, while discounts will be honored until Jan. 15, 2003.

Tetra Pak rewards loyal customers

MORE than half a million shoppers will enjoy instant giveaways, exciting booth games, plus a chance to win cash prizes whenever they buy milk, juice and other foods packed in Tetra Pak cartons. The promo Grocery Linggo-Linggo sa Tetra Pak Panalo rewards consumers for their loyal patronage of Tetra Pak and celebrates Tetra Pak's 50th anniversary. The promo kicked off at 9 SM Supermarket branches and initially runs until Nov. 17. It will then be continued in other major supermarket chains up to June 2003. Participating SM branches are Megamall, Makati, North Edsa, Manila, Fairview, Southmall, Bacoor, and Pampanga. Shoppers will receive a raffle coupon with every purchase of any product in a Tetra Pak carton. All they need to do is look under the pack for the Tetra Pak logo. Every purchase of five products in the Tetra Pak carton automatically entitles customers to an instant giveaway.

SMB's Drink Ka, Win Ka

SAN MIGUEL Beer never felt more refreshing with its latest promo Drink Ka, Win Ka. A revival of the loon-under-the-crown craze, the promo lets beer lovers enjoy more of theie favorite SMBs with prizes for every flip of the crown. Under each crown of SMB Pale Pilsen and SMB Grande are cool SMB treats--T-shirt, camera, cell phone, discman, free SMBs, and more. The promo kicked off Aug. 15 in all participating SMB outlets, and ends Nov. 15. Lucky crown owners can still claim their prizes until Jan. 31, 2003. This is San Miguel Corp.'s way of making its loyal beer drinkers enjoy more in every bottle. Winners need to bring their winning crowns to claim their prizes at SMBD sales offices nationwide. SMB Pale Pilsen winners may get their beer at any retail SMB outlet.

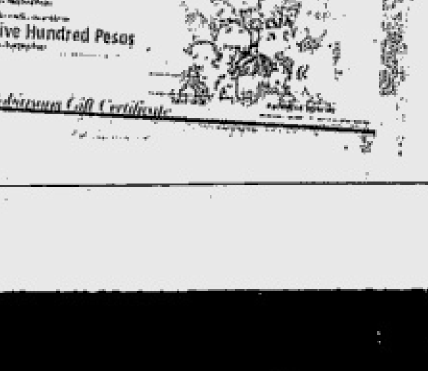
Product FILES

RDS GCs accepted in more stores

CAN'T make up your mind on what to give loved ones on special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries? Thinking of what to donate to the company raffle? Wipe that sweat off your brow and solve your gift-giving problems with Robinsons Gift Certificates.

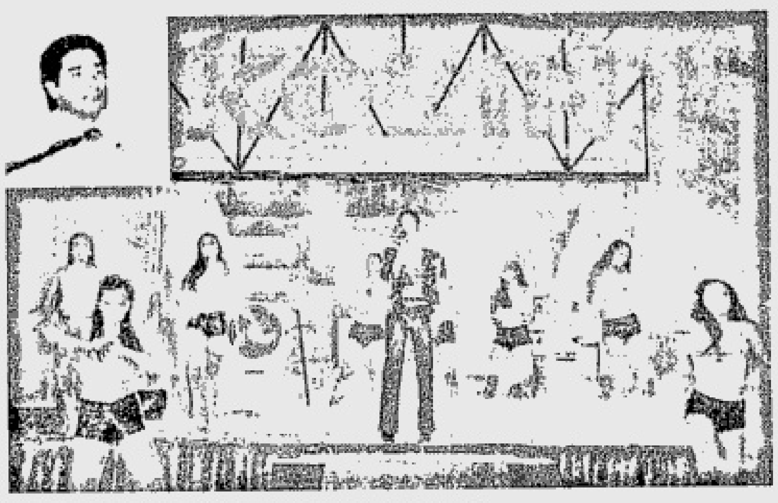
Now accepted in all the outlets of Robinsons Department Store (RDS), Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Handyman, Big R SuperCenter, TopShop, R-Abenson Appliances and TMC Pharmacies, Robinsons Gift Certificates would give recipients more stores and more options to choose from.

Robinsons Gift Certificates are available at all RDS, Robinsons Supermarket and Big R SuperCenter customer service counters nationwide. The gift certificates are available in P500, P200 and P100 denominations.



COCA COLA EXPORT CORPORATION

Louis Bariuan, field marketing manager of the Coca Cola Export Corp., maker of Magnolia Fun-Chum, Eight O'Clock Fruit Juices, Wilkins and Nestea, and likewise co-presentor of the Museum of the Mind and Body, gathered enough courage to try for himself the mystical bed of nails during a recent visit of CCEC executives to the highly applauded Museum of the Mind and Body, a multimedia interactive exhibit that showcases the most complex machine ever, the human mind. Running until February 2003, the museum is located at the 3rd level of the Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.



KOLIN IS GETTING YOU AHEAD

Kolin, a leading provider of quality home appliances, recently held the Kolin Product Launch 2003 at the Grand Ballroom of Century Park Hotel. Distinguished guests included the honored members of the board, nationwide dealers, and friends from the press. The program consisted of the Sex Bomb Girls gyrating to groovy sounds, guest singer R&B princess Kyla, the launch of the official Kolin website, and Kolin products for 2003, such as the e-Series Window-type Air-conditioners, 15" LCD monitor and the 42" Plasma TV were showcased and flaunted to an overwhelmed audience. Kolin product endorser and image model Mandy Ochoa awed the crowd with his stint as master of ceremonies for the evening. Shown are the Sex Bomb Girls with Kyla and Mandy Ochoa (inset). For more details, inquire at the Kolin Showroom, ground floor, Kolin Building, Edsa corner Magallanes Avenue, Makati City, or call 852-1531 to 37, or visit any appliance dealer nationwide. Log on to www.kolinphil.com.ph.

Republican win to lift RP trade

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is optimistic a Republican-controlled US Congress will boost the Philippines' bid to gain bigger access for its exports to the United States.

In an interview, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said President George W. Bush's retaking of the Senate and continuing grip on the House of Representatives should translate to quicker and more positive results for the Philippines' lobbying for more trade with the United States.

Bush will have greater authority in implementing his economic policies with a supportive Congress, while approval of administration-backed bills will be faster, he said.

Roxas said the visit of US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick on Nov. 19 to 20 gained more "significance" mainly because of the strong showing of the Republican party in the recent US midterm elections.

"We could seek for more trade concession from the US and be more confident of getting results," Roxas said.

Roxas is hoping to push during Zoellick's visit the country's appeal for wider access to the United States for products like fruits and manufactured goods through the Generalized System of Preferences program.

Washington recently extended for two years the Philippines duty-free privileges, which should give preferred access to $1.2 billion worth of Philippine-made products.

Roxas said the Philippines was lobbying to get a bigger number of products eligible for GSP perks.

Philippine products shipped through the program are wiring harness, raw sugar, line telephone sets, reception apparatus, finished electrical and electronic equipment, and metal furniture.

Roxas said the discussions with Zoellick were likely to cover the USTR's apprehensions over the Philippines policies, particularly the country's rampant piracy and tax discrimination against US vehicle assemblers.

The USTR has placed the Philippines with Indonesia and Taiwan on its priority watch list for the government's failure to check intellectual property rights violations.

This is the second year that the Philippines has been put on a priority watch list despite increased efforts by the government to tighten laws against IPR violations.

Roxas said the Philippines would cite the government's recent intensified campaign against bootleggers of US audio and video products, particularly the high-profile raids on DVD, VCD and CD duplicators and public destruction of their fake goods by the Videogram Regulatory Board headed by actor Ramon Revilla Jr.

On his second day, Roxas said Zoellick would meet with representatives of Asean member countries, including Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Vietnam, to discuss the region's trade policies and make an update on the proposed US-Asean Free Trade Agreement.

Asean, Apec help sought to cut terminal charges

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEDERATION of Asean Shippers' Councils is asking the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to help it force ocean liners to drop terminal handling charges that, it says, have unduly jacked up costs.

Philippine Shippers Bureau director Pedro Vicente Mendoza said the FASC's members agreed to push for the incorporation of terminal handling charges with freight charges to prevent double charging.

Mendoza said the groups' members resolved to discuss their petition separately with ocean liners in their respective countries.

"We'll give them three months to act on our petition. If they don't respond positively, we might have to raise the issue with Asean or Apec," he said.

Mendoza said shippers used to pay only freight for their goods until the mid-1990s, when ocean liners started charging terminal handling charges for services that were supposed to have been covered by freight charges and fees to port operators.

Mendoza said ocean liners had kept shippers in the dark of the details of the terminal handling charges.

T-bill yields seen flat; BSP officials cite US rates cut

By Clarissa S. Batino

TREASURY bill yields are expected to remain flat, if not go down modestly, in today's auction, as government officials believe the half-a-point cut in key US interest rates last week will encourage more investors to keep or even increase their peso placements.

"I would be surprised if the rate of the 91-day (treasury bill) would not go down," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura said the government's cost of borrowing would gain more from the cut in US rates than the central bank's policy rates, which had been kept unchanged at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending since March 15.

"It would be the treasury bills, particular the 91-day, that would react accordingly to the US Fed. Instead of buying US treasuries, investors may want to stay or go to pesos," Buenaventura said.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the T-bill yields would likely stay at current levels or within the zone of the last average of 5.374 percent for the 91-day, 6.629 percent for 182-day, and 7.232 percent for the 364-day.

Berkley, Union Cement keep favorable ratings

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Rating Services Corp. has kept its ratings on Berkley International Plans' corporate credit and Union Cement Corp.'s long-term commercial papers.

In separate statements, Philratings said it maintained Berkley's corporate credit rating of "PRS A."

The rating means Berkley has an "above average capacity" to meet its financial commitments.

The pre-need firm, however, is "somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than higher-rated companies," it said.

In assigning the rating, Philratings said it considered Berkley Plans' "adequate level of investment in its trust fund relative to its actuarial reserve liabilities, its compliance with SEC guidelines and reportorial requirements, its position as one of the leading players in the education segment of the pre-need sector, the improvement in its margins in year 2001, and its adequate capitalization level."

Philratings, meanwhile, maintained its "PRS A" rating on Union Cement's P1.8 billion in debt papers.

This means that the issue has "favorable investment attributes."

SEC income hits P729M

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has reported that it registered a gross income of P729.73 million in the first 10 months of the year, exceeding its target by 56 percent.

The commission said the 10-month figure was also 53 percent higher than last year's P478 million.

The SEC reported that its revenues came largely from registration, filing and certification fees, all of which comprised 84 percent of the total, followed by license fees of securities brokers, dealers and salesmen, 8 percent; fines and penalties, 7 percent; and, miscellaneous income, one percent.

"The above figures were a welcome development, considering the recent changes in the commission's management operations," the SEC said in a statement.

The coordinating functions of the commissioners were recently removed.

Full responsibility was given to directors in handling their respective departments.

Other notable developments came from the company registration and monitoring department and the corporation finance department.

The CRMD reported a 33-percent increase in filing fees collected in October against the past month's output.

The CFD reported a 5-percent increase in the fees it collected in October. It evaluated 860 reports and processed 1,120 compliance letters as part of its monitoring function. In terms of percentages, these figures were 88 percent and 44 percent higher than the output the previous month.

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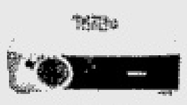
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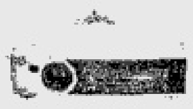
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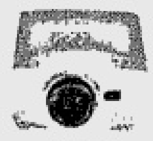
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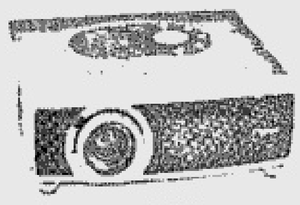
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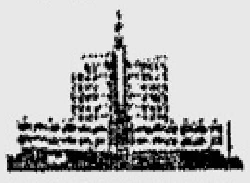

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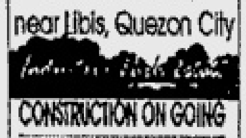

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30 October 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The City Government of Olongapo invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labor, materials and equipment for the following projects to wit:

Item No.	Name of Project/ Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract Works	Required PCAB Registration and Classification
Package I	1. Construction of City Hall Building Extension	a. The project calls for the construction of a three storey building having a total floor area of 1,208.00 square meters. b. The said extension will house the offices of City Health, Population Commission, Urban Basic Services Program and City Social Welfare and Development Office. This would make the offices all under one roof thereby expediting the flow of transactions.	P13.0 Million	Medium A (Building construction)
Package II	2. Construction of Covered Court at Rizal Triangle		P10.0 Million	Medium A (Building construction)

Interested bidders with the above cited PCAB classification and prequalified by the Local PBAC are eligible to bid for the above cited projects and are requested to submit the needed documents independently.

Pre-C forms shall be made available to contractors classified above at the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office upon submittal of Letter of Intent and latest PCAB License on November 11, 2002 at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Office of the City Mayor, 2nd Floor City Hall Olongapo City. Prospective bidders are required to bring original copy of Contractor's License for verification/authentication purposes.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements shall not be later than 5:00 P.M., 25 November 2002 to be submitted at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall, this city. The Local PBAC shall notify in writing all prequalified and pre-disqualified contractors.

Bid/Tender Documents are available for issuance starting 03 December 2002 at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for Package I and Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) for Package II project at the City Treasurer's Office, this city.

All bids from prequalified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 A.M. on 18 December 2002 at the Office of the Chairman, PBAC, this city after which all bids will be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on 10 December 2002 at 10:00 A.M. at the City Council Session Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Olongapo City.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City.

(Sgd.) KATE H. GORDON
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov. 1, 4 & 11, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Acquisition of Five (5) Units Asian Utility Vehicles (AUVs). The schedule of bidding activities is as follows

November 11-22, 2002	Issuance and Submission of Registration Requirements
November 26-27, 2002	Notification of Registered Bidders and Issuance of Bid Documents
November 29, 2002 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference
December 13, 2002 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals
(10:45 AM)	Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals

Registration and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents and technical specifications may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, nonrefundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/ INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(SGD.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 11 & 18, 2002)

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HRD STF 09194639391 ECHO

HRDSTAF 09173239275 ALMEDA

OFC JOB 09192505572 Chat

OFC STAF 09196541756 RAFFY

OFC STAF 09202249379 ABBIE

OFC STAFF 0916-3000356 Hazel

OFC STAFF 09178969388 Byron

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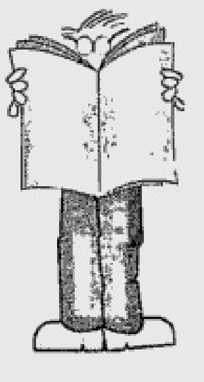

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of 22 units of Motorcycles
Samar Island Biodiversity Project (PHI/99/G31 and PHI/99/014)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Procurement of 22 units of motorcycles" for the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an eight-year project implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), covering an area of 347,000 hectares with surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares.

The 22 units of motorcycles will be deployed in Samar Island, to be used by project personnel, as well as DENR forest rangers, PASU staff, PAWB and DENR Region VIII counterpart staff to travel around the area for critical project activities such as forest protection and enforcement, resource assessment and monitoring, and coordination work.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 500.00 from the following address :

Development Support Sevices Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275 / 237
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
E-mail Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **November 11, 2002 to November 15, 2002**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules for this activity.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This Invitation to Bid shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until November 15, 2002.

(PDI--Nov. 11, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

HOMER TLC, INC. of the USA is the owner of the largest chain of home improvement centers and stores in the United States of America, and the world, and operates under its well-known marks

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V. E. DEL ROSARIO & PARTNERS
Counsel for HOMER TLC, Inc.
Rosadel Building, 1011 Metropolitan Ave. Makati City
Tel. No. 899-6724/Fax No. 899-6653

(PDI - Nov. 11, 2002)

People, Events & Products

LSGH class '78 supports Give A Life

WHAT started out as an anonymous donor's solitary attempt to ease the plight of the very sick children at the Philippine General Hospital Pediatrics Wards 9 and 11 has blossomed into a national movement named Give A Life. Spearheaded by the La Salle Green Hills High School class of '78 (LSGH '78 Foundation Inc.) and the PGH-CHILD Foundation, the project aims to provide the pediatric charity wards at PGH with the much-needed equipment and basic medicines necessary for increasing the survival rate of the children in its care.

The concerted plan to raise the level of awareness of the acute need at the PGH pediatrics wards 9 and 11 through television, print, the Internet and personal appeals resulted in outpouring support coming from across the country and as far away as North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. A 30-minute information special which aired on national television everyday starting August was instrumental in moving various socio-civic groups into action in support of "Give A Life".

Working in close coordination with the doctors at PGH, and through the generous responses of concerned individual and businesses, "Give A Life" has been able to equip the Pediatrics Wards with six incubators (P660,000 each), six ventilators (P800,000 each), and vital medicines and supplies.

LSGH '78 Foundation Inc. realizes that much remain to be done as the number of sick and poor Filipino children at the Philippine General Hospital continues to increase. Its members are convinced that there are a number of kindhearted souls willing to lend a helping hand to the truly needy. In preparation for its 25th homecoming on Feb. 1, 2003, the La Salle Green Hills Class of '78 dedicates itself to attaining the lofty goals of Give A Life and to unify members of LSGH Class '78 in its involvement with socio-civic projects for the underprivileged and disadvantaged.

For inquiries on Give A Life, call 899-1000. The LSGH '78 Foundation Inc. can be reached through Jojo Buenaventura (926-5127), Au Abad Santos (421-6235), Jason Lim (809-5506 ext. 420), and Minggoy Padua (834-3101).

It Gives You Chocolate

SEATTLE'S BEST GOES WIRELESS

Seattle's Best Coffee has partnered with Airborne Access to make each SBC outlet an Internet hotspot. Airborne Access hooks up each branch to the technology of wireless broadband, otherwise known as wireless fidelity (WI-FI), delivering data at 11 megabits per second. Already online are SBC branches in Eastwood and E. Rodriguez, with other branches following suit in the succeeding months. Shown formalizing Seattle's Best Coffee and Airborne Access' partnership are (seated, from left) Toti Ferriols, marketing manager of Coffee Masters Inc., franchisee of SBC, and Jay Fajardo, chief executive officer of Airborne Access. Standing (from left) are Robert Madamba, Airborne Access VP–business development, Michelle David, marketing manager, Coffee Masters Inc., and JM Castillo, Airborne Access VP-marketing and sales.

Search for Epiderm-A Campus Angels hits Visayas

EPIDERM-A, the first whitening lotion in the market with sunscreen protection and fruit extracts, presents the first nationwide search for Epiderm-A Campus Angels. The search is open to young ladies with pleasing personalities and healthy skin who may get the chance to win cash prizes and a year-long supply of Rogemson products. Moreover, the winner can also be chosen as a regional endorser of Epiderm-A or any Rogemson products.

To join the Search for Campus Angels, a candidate must be nominated by her class. She must accumulate an initial 1,000 votes/points from participating Rogemson products like Epiderm-A, Sunscreen and Ladyfresh to qualify as the official candidate. Simply collect and drop labels or empty packs of these products in designated drop boxes within the campus. The nominator must include his/her name, address, age, name of school, year, section, and signature plus the name of the candidate of his/her choice.

In addition to the search, Rogemson is also giving away a surprise gift to the lucky Classroom Partner. This means that the more votes or ballots turned in, the bigger the chance of winning as a lucky Classroom Partner.

Details of the Search for Campus Angels are available in posters within your campus or during the Epiderm-A Inside-Out Confidence School Tour in your participating schools in the following provinces: Ilioilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Tagbilaran, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Bulacan, Tarlac, Cavite, Gen. San and Bicol.

GLOCALIZING BANK MARKETING

The Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) held its biennial convention at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila Oct 2 and 3. Dubbed 'GLOcALIZING Bank Marketing: Global Trends for the Local Market,' the 2-day conference and expo gathered industry experts in marketing communications, advertising, product and business development and public relations. Guest speakers from various industries presented in the event included Asian Bankers' Titien Ahmad, BBDO-Guerrero Ortega president Jos Ortega, RCBC Bankard Joven Reyes, Generali Asia's Greg Martin, AC Nielsen MIS director Elena Van Tooren and ABS-CBN's Ces Drilon. Topics for discussion included global ads for the local market, marketing strategies applied to financial services, corporate identity and institutionalizing sales culture. Shown are BMAP directors and convention committee members (from left) Chinatrust Bank's Cathy Alonso, Full Circle Communications' Milen de Quiros, RCBC's Allan Tumbaga, BPI's Roni Tapia-Merk, Equitable PCI-Bank's Maureen Abelardo, Allied Bank's Yolanda Albano, Metrobank's Jaz Bunag, UCPB Savings Bank's Joee Gullas, Planters Development Bank's Bobby Banaag, Global Training Solutions Inc.'s Sonny Torres, and East West Banking Corp.'s Ferdie La Chica.

HBC: BEAUTY WITHIN REACH

Facial Care

In its mission to be truly a beauty store within reach, HBC Home of Beauty exclusives, a fast-growing chain of health and beauty stores, has opened its all-new Munoz branch at 1186 Edsa, Munoz, Quezon City (beside McDonald's). HBC's name is Home of Beauty exclusive because of its exclusive products (San-San Cosmetics, Body Recipe Natural Skin Care Line, Just BUG Cologne) and its exclusive services (facial, foot spa, hair coloring and makeover corner). HBC aims to provide the widest selection of high quality beauty products at prices within reach. The affair was graced by Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, HBC chair and CEO Dr. Rosalinda Hortaleza and celebrities Giselle Sanchez and Joko Diaz. The newest outlet at Munoz proved to be a certified crowd-drawer with exclusive services: free derma consultation, free facial, free foot spa, free makeover and free hair coloring for a minimum purchase requirement. HBC's exclusive products also offered exciting freebies such as free pouch bag for Just BUG cologne and free make-up kit for San-San cosmetics. Other exciting promos include 'Bowl of Surprizes' and special discounts on selected items. Visit HBC Munoz now and be pampered with its Beauty Exclusives within reach.

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Peacefully joined our Creator on November 9, 2002
at the age of 91.

His loving wife ***Charito****, children* ***Eduardo (Poch), Nookie*** *and* ***Jun****,* ***Bobby*** *and* ***Alayne****, grandchildren and great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the repose of his soul as he is born into Eternal Life.*

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills.

Interment will be announced later.

To laugh often and love much;
To win the respect of intelligent persons and the affections of children;
To earn the approbation of honest critics and endure
the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty; to find the best in others;
To give one's self, to leave the world a bit better
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition;
To have played and laughed with enthusiasm, and sung with exultation;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived....
THIS IS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED!

"I am the Resurrection and the Life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

LORENZO WEE

of Zamboanga City

Peacefully joined the Lord on November 8, 2002
at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife, **Pilar**; children and children-in-law, **Shelly & Rolando, Patrick & Nancy, Alvin & Jane**; grandchildren, **Syndel, Soleil, Raphael, Neil, Noel, Noah, Adrian & Aaron**; and all relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on November 13, 2002 at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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to your departed loved one.

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"YOU WILL FOREVER BE IN OUR HEARTS"

Teresita Bautista Tolentino

December 20, 1953 – November 9, 2002

Beloved wife to **Alfredo**, a loving and caring mother to **Michael, Marco, Ma. Isabela** and **Ma. Monica**; granddaughter to **Lola Ikang**; daughter to **Macario** and **Rosita**; sister to **Rose** and **Victor, Nelia** and **Roberto, Rodolfo** and **Rina**, relatives and friends request to remember her in their prayers.

The wake will be held at Sanctuario De San Antonio, Forbes, Makati.

LILIA HERMOSO SUAREZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 7, 2002 at the age of 73.

Her loving husband **Paquito**; children **Francis** and **Cindy, Marivic, Vincent, Bot** and **Cheryl, Maribel** and **Don**; grandchildren **Ralph, Rina, Krisha, Miggy, Gabby, Pauline** and **Carmela**; siblings and in-laws **Cornelio** (†) and **Loleng** (†), **Totoy** and **Nene, Jun** and **Chuchi, Letty** and **Tony**; and nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Family Hall, Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at the Mt. Carmel Crypt after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Hall.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down the green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
Psalm 23:1-2

Our Dearly beloved MAMANG

LEODEGARIA PULANCO ABAYA

(October 01, 1907 - November 8, 2002)

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 8, 2002
at the age of 95.

Her loving children **Antonio & Praxedes, Augusto & Pilarica, Angelita & Reginò, Adora & Pedrito, Amado & Susan, Amelia & Aguedo**, grandchildren, great grandchildren relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sampalok Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park (Sucat) after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

HERMINIA L. DELA CRUZ

Dec. 27, 1919 – Nov. 11, 2001

Para sa unang taon ng pagpanaw ng aming pinakamamahal na ina at lola, alay nami'y misa sa mga sumusunod na simbahan na kalakip ay dalanging walang kahulilip na Kaligayahan at Kapayapaan sa Kabilang buhay.

1)	**San Juan Nepomuceno Church** *Malibay, Pasay City*	6:00 AM
2)	**Immaculate Conception Church** *Malolos, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
3)	**Sta. Cecilia Church** *Maly, San Mateo Rizal*	6:30 PM
4)	**Manila Memorial Park** *Sucat, Parañaque*	3:00 PM
5)	**Saint Philomena Church** *Carlson Main St., LA, CA, USA*	6:00 AM
6)	**Sta. Cruz Church** *Ibiza, Baleares, Spain*	10:00 AM

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Sun also rises for former HP president

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

RAYMUND del Val, former president and general manager of Hewlett-Packard Philippines, has joined rival Sun Microsystems Philippines' management team as general manager.

"It all started as a joke," recalled Del Val, head of HP Philippines prior to its merger with computer firm Compaq.

He said that Cynthia Mamon, part-owner and managing director of Sun Microsystems Philippines, jokingly asked him if he wanted to join them, and be part of a company she built for years.

"She said she wanted to get people to help her," Del Val told reporters during a press briefing announcing his appointment as general manager of Sun Microsystems Philippines.

Del Val was head of HP Philippines since 1995 until he was replaced by Compaq Philippines chief Nilo Cruz, following the announcement of the stock-for-stock merger of mother firms HP Computer and Compaq Computer in September 2001.

The merger created an $87-billion global technology leader that brought together operations in more than 160 countries with over 145,000 employees.

In a speech during the briefing, Mamon teasingly told the local media that Del Val "has seen the light" after deciding to join Sun Philippines.

DEL VAL and Mamon

Industry sources said Del Val was also being wooed by a local telecommunications firm.

"We're further strengthening our management team," Mamon said.

With 22 years of experience in sales and marketing from companies like Unisys, Digital Equipment and HP, Del Val is expected to boost Sun Microsystems Philippines' sales and marketing team.

"I consider this as a meaningful event in my life. It's nice to be back in the limelight where I could help make a strong firm stronger," Del Val said.

Mamon added: "We're fortunate to have him on board amid these challenging times. The addition of Raymund will help us steer the business forward as we help our customers get more value from their IT infrastructure."

She said Del Val's main responsibilities would include driving Sun Microsystems Philippines' sales organization, focusing on industries like telecommunications, service providers, finance and manufacturing.

Quizzed on whether or not he intends to woo some of his former clients at HP to Sun, Del Val said he expects to deal with some former clients from HP.

"The market is so small. Thus some of my (former) customers are customers of Sun Philippines," he added.

Del Val declined to comment further on the HP-Compaq merger, but said that he already has made "peace and has gained new friends" in the industry.

Del Val was part of the 15,000 employees of HP worldwide that had to be let go, following the merger with Compaq.

In the Philippines, combined operations of HP and Compaq total 197, plus 118 extended employees doing outsourcing work for both Compaq and HP.

Samsung sticks to high-end phones for local market

KOREAN consumer electronics firm Samsung is deliberately avoiding going head-on with Nokia in the mass market for mobile handsets, an executive said recently.

"The Philippines is one of the best markets for Nokia. I don't want to rival Nokia on all markets for handsets. We want to capture the high-end market," said Sang Youl Eom, president and chief executive of Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp., in an interview.

Eom said that there is not enough room for another player in the mass market for handsets in the Philippines, which is also dominated by the Finnish phone manufacturer.

A relatively new player in the mobile handset business, Samsung hopes to rival Nokia in the high-end market with its soon-to-be launched color handsets and camera phones, Eom said.

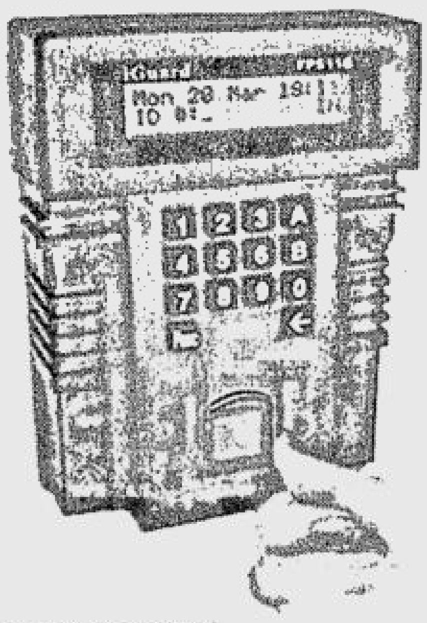
"Twenty percent of the Philippine market is high-end. Our market share is about 10 percent. So that makes us second to Nokia in the high-end market in the Philippines," the executive added.

The new handsets that will soon hit Philippine stores will be priced at P25,000 up to P35,000, Eom said. These products would sport color displays and polyphonic tones. One handset will come with a digital camcorder that doubles as a digital camera.

Eom said that the company aims to capture 15 percent of the 20 percent high-end market for handsets in the Philippines in the next few years.

"For the time being, we will not enter the mass market. There are just too many players in that space," he said.

Erwin Lemuel Oliva



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Bais high school students get chance to go online

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAIS CITY, Negros Oriental—From Bais City to the world.

For many teachers and students of the Bais City High School (BCHS); the word "Internet" was a foreign one—until Friday, when presidential daughter Luli Macapagal Arroyo led local officials and corporate sponsors in unveiling the P1-million Internet-connected computer laboratory with 11 brand-new Pentium III units.

Arroyo, who is program director for the Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development (FIT-ED), an NGO that aims to increase Information Technology awareness in the Philippines, was accompanied by officials of Coca-Cola Export and Globe/Islacom NetExpress, who, along with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., are the main sponsors of the program.

BCHS was the country's 15th recipient of the computer laboratory, called a "Coca-Cola ed.venture Center," through a P17.5-million initial grant by the soft drink giant.

This computer laboratory was the third such center to be set up in Negros Oriental. The other two Coca-Cola ed.venture centers in the province are at the Negros Oriental High School and at the Camanjac National High School.

"We are grateful for this generous donation because this would enable the high school students of Bais to catch up with the rest of the world," said Bais Mayor Hector Villanueva.

In her speech, Arroyo said a whole new world was awaiting the students of the Bais City High School.

"It's really a different world because you can now explore on your own," she said.

Arroyo also challenged the students to show the world what Bais has to offer by making a webpage of their place.

Jose Bayani Baylon, public affairs director for Coca-Cola Export, said that with the newest ed.venture Center, the students of BCHS can now join the 10,000 other young Filipinos in 14 public high schools nationwide who are learning to use the Internet as a primary tool for research.

Baylon said this program fits in with the government's call for private sector cooperation for access to broad-based IT education. During the launching of this program at the Malacañang Palace in April 2001, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called it "an innovative effort to help close the digital gap in our country."

The Internet connection of these computers will be free for the first year and will be available for a 50-percent discount from the second year onward.

Victoria Tinio, director for e-learning for FIT-ED, said more schools in Negros Oriental could avail of the Coca-Cola ed.venture Center if it meets the criteria. Among them is that recipient schools should have electricity and a telephone line. She said the area has to be served by an Internet service provider.

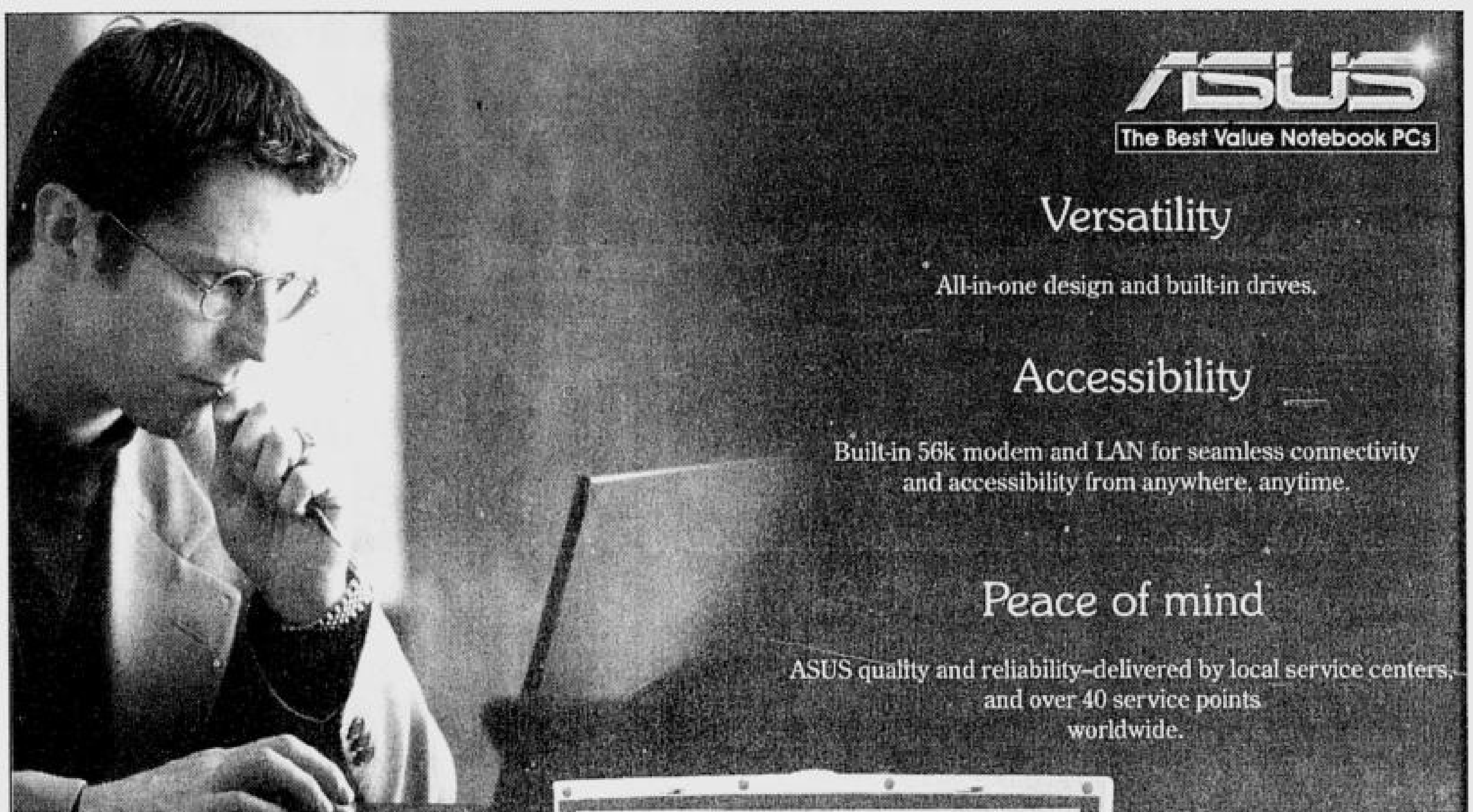
Hi-Wire offers direct-to-home broadband solutions in RP

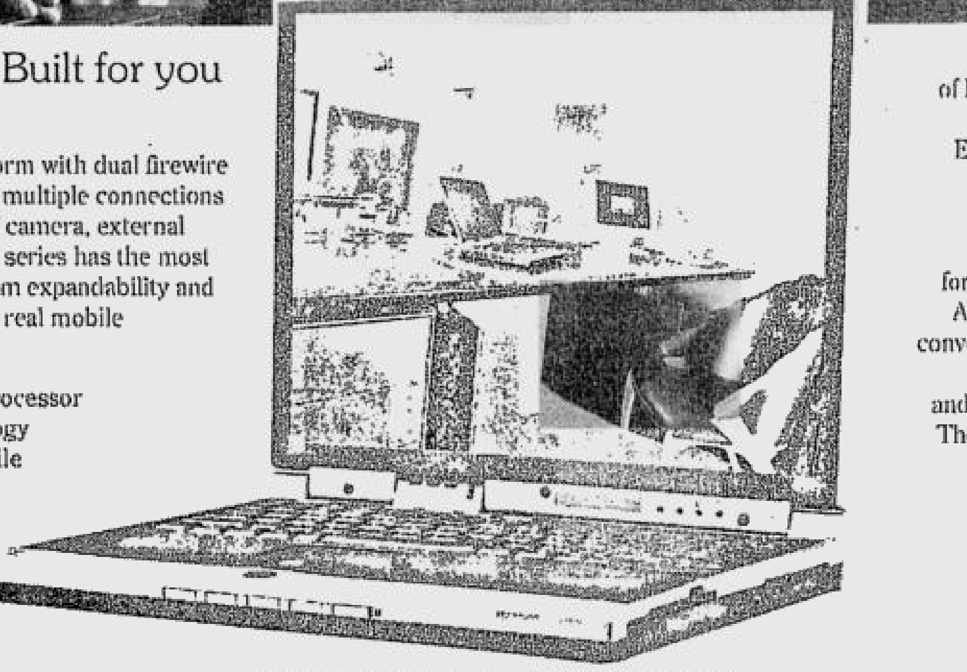
HI-WIRE, one of the country's leading broadband players and a provider of in-building voice and data connectivity solutions, has partnered with Philippine Multi-Media System to deploy the Philippines' first direct-to-home services in Oxford Suites hotel.

Guests of Oxford Suites can now view 40 local and international broadcast channels as well as five pay-per-view channels at their convenience. Hi-Wire has also outfitted Oxford Suites with voice services such as IDD, NDD and local calls, as well as PABX services.

"Hi-Wire has taken a big step in offering our concept of intelligent buildings outside commercial buildings in the Makati and Ortigas business districts," says Robbie Antonio, executive director of Hi-Wire. "We likewise offer our capabilities to tenants in residential condominiums and hotels, as evidence of our competency in offering communications services."

Hi-Wire provides in-building information and communications technology solutions and services to commercial tenants. Among the company's services are Hi-Wire Voice and Hi-Wire Data. Hi-Wire Voice is a full telephony service that provides a cost-effective and flexible solution to building tenants. This service offers DID Direct Inward Dialing and local lines with IDD/NDD capabilities, plus a host of value-added services like teleconferencing, call waiting and call forwarding.





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Read this review if you want to live

By Leo Magno

A BETTER title for this article would be "Read this review if you want to save $50." This game which we reviewed on the Xbox isn't worth it.

What is it with movie-based interactive games which seem to attract mediocrity? A few weeks ago I reviewed "Spiderman: The Movie" and "The Lord of the Rings," and both games suck. Now, "The Terminator: Dawn of Fate" joins those two games in the category of games which suck harder than a Hoover.

Dawn of Fate is a third-person action game which is officially licensed by Carolco, owner of the successful Terminator franchise. Being an official game, one would imagine tremendous pressure placed on the shoulders of developer Paradigm Entertainment and publisher Infogrames. Which is why the storyline of Dawn of Fate jibes with that of the first two Terminator movies. However, the tremendous pressure and expectations weren't enough for Infogrames to come up with something which does justice to the Terminator series.

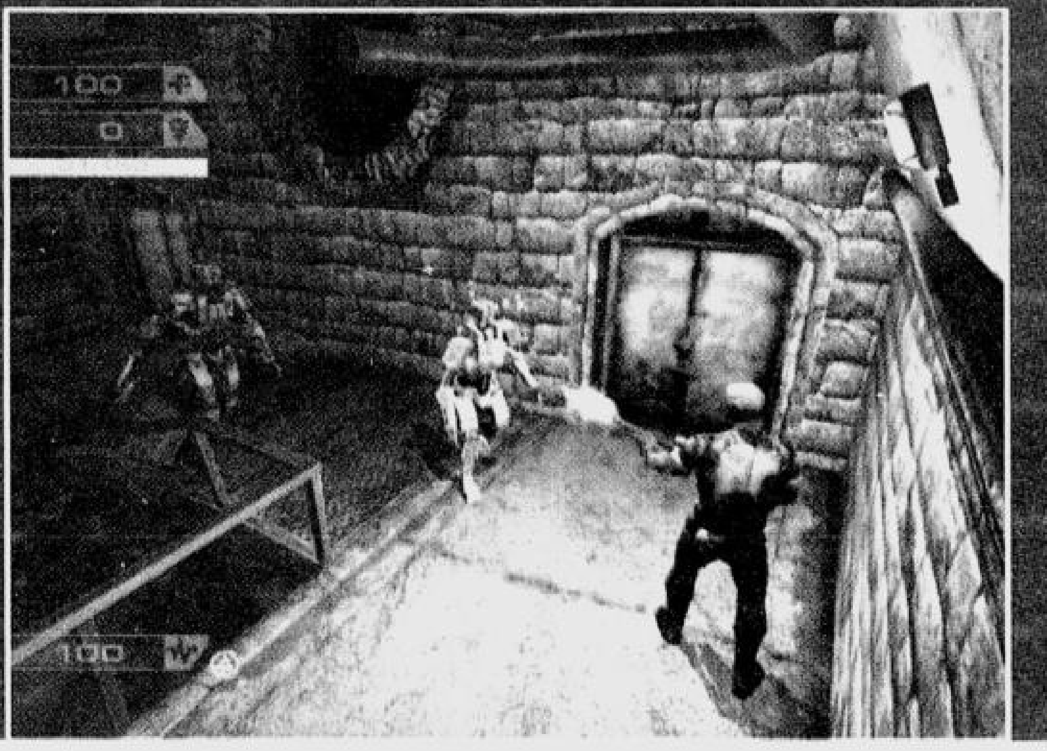
Dawn of Fate is a prequel to the Terminator movies, taking place in 2027 before Gen. John Connor, leader of the human resistance battling against the mechanical marauders of SkyNet, sent his own father back in time to save his mother, Sarah Connor. His father is Kyle Reese, played in the movie by Michael Biehn, who first delivered that now-famous line "Come with me if you want to live." Reese goes back to 1984 and locates Sarah Connor, played by Linda Hamilton, just in time before the T-800 cybernetic organism gets to her. Before Reese went back to 1984, SkyNet sent back the T-800 to kill Sarah Connor, hence leaving Gen. Connor to become a mere unsuccessful sperm in a field of wet dreams. Of course, everyone knows who played the role of the T-800 in the 1984 classic film directed by James Cameron—it's that bodybuilder from Austria who's name escapes me right now but I'll try to tell you later.

For those of you poor souls unfamiliar with the story of Terminator, here's a summary. In 1997, SkyNet, a neural network supercomputer which manages practically all the defense and automated requirements of the United States, became self-aware. Humans tried to pull the plug, but SkyNet's self-preservation protocol kicked in and launched the United States' nuclear weapons. What ensued was a battle between man and the machines created by SkyNet. The humans won in the year 2027 after they smashed SkyNet's defense grid in Cheyenne. At that time SkyNet had perfected teleportation and time travel, so it sent a T-800 Terminator back in time to 1984 to kill Sarah Connor, mother of the leader of the human resistance. Man sent back its own soldier, Kyle Reese, to protect Sarah. Reese and Sarah eventually merged their files together in a paradoxical procreation effort which created John Connor.

And so the story begins. In Dawn of Fate the prequel, Sgt. Reese is joined by his TechCom team mates Capt. Justin Perry and Lt. Catherine Luna. You get to play all three characters in the 10 different stages of the game. Dawn of Fate is a pretty easy run-and-gun game which does not offer much excitement until you get to the 8th level onwards. The rest of the earlier levels are a waste of time. The goal of TechCom is to infiltrate the SkyNet defense grid in Norad and fry the circuits of the T-800s which get in their way. However, I found the T-800 endoskeletons (the all-metal ones without the organic tissue covering) to be pathetic wimps. A few whacks from the plasma baton and they're down.

READ/B17

THE TERMINATOR: Dawn of fate has terrific weapons, good lighting, average sound effects and good environment rendition. But all in all, when considered as an official Terminator property, this game sucks harder than a Hoover.



Technology management course can further hone science, tech skills of RP professionals

By Mario J. Ramirez

MASSACHUSETTS Institute of Technology professor Robert Solow made a study that became the basis for his 1987 Nobel Prize. The study shows that long-term economic growth does not depend on capital investments like factories or buildings but on technological developments such as inventions and innovations.

However, Filipinos do not regard scientists, engineers and technicians as heroes. Instead, our children prefer to sing and dance emulating the Sex Bomb dancers. Many of our best and brightest youth want to join showbiz because that's where they see quick money. Many more end up as exploited OFWs.

We must show and teach the Filipino to look to knowledge if he is ever to jump off his conveyor belt of misery and hand-to-mouth existence. He must rely on the knowledge of science and technology for a way out. That knowledge can be obtained through education such as Technology Management.

I'm currently in my second year of such a program. I want to share with the readers the merits of this educational path to science and technology enlightenment and encourage them to join the program.

Technology degree

What is the Masters Degree in Technology Management or MTM all about? As a comprehensive graduate degree, Technology Management is only available now at the University of the Philippines, although La Salle is offering certificate programs on technology management subjects this year. The UP MTM is still young in its six years of existence, but it is accepted as an excellent choice of advanced study just like an MBA.

TM or Technology Management is a combination of several disciplines. It integrates business, engineering, economic and social science concepts. It shows students the significance of technology in modern life. It teaches them the tools and methods to understand it and helps them make effective business and life decisions. Finally, Technology Management reminds people that every decision they make operates in some bigger context such as society or the environment, or both.

That sounds so general and all-encompassing. But how important is it to know the effects of technology? What would one gain by investing money, effort and time, to learn technology management?"

Individuals and business

Imagine a supervisor who works for a video rental shop. The year is 1998. The owner wants to make the shop grow and become professional. So, he pays for a franchise of ABC Video. That gives instant market recognition. Clients see the shop as first class. Of course, the shop had to buy a large number of videocassettes from ABC. But that's okay, the business booms. With the ABC brand and a variety of titles available, lots of customers pay to rent movies. Everything's just great!

Two years later, the company surrenders its ABC franchise, and with just a generic name now, it looks like any other store. Nothing to distinguish it, sales drop. The owner has difficulty even paying rent, let alone paying salaries. What happened?

The technology of VCD replaces VHS. It's easier to copy, so pirated versions of all titles are available for P50. People just buy instead of rent. The shop can't compete and eventually has to close. If you're the supervisor, you just lost your job.

If you had known about the impact of VCD and copying earlier, you might have been able to do something. But how could you have known? Well, one subject that Technology Management teaches is called technology scanning and monitoring. You gather information about current developments and trends of the technologies that are critical to your business or industry, like the video rental industry. It doesn't make you a prophet or an Alvin Toffler (author of "Future Shock" and "Third Wave"), but the information gives you an idea what may happen to your business if a new technology comes out.

If only you had known, you might have warned your boss, or changed jobs ahead of time. Never mind, you can go to Virra Mall and sell VCDs.

So, whether as an owner of the business or employee, knowing how technology affects things like the business climate, is important. It can be the difference between the profitability and bankruptcy of the company. It can mean your job.

How about a country like the Philippines?

Trail of missteps

Back in the 1950s, the Philippines had the second strongest economy in Asia, next only to Japan. Then it started making wrong turns. For example, unlike India with its world-renowned Indian Institute of Technology, the Philippines did not set up an advanced technology institute that could have sparked the creation of a science culture here. Today, we don't have computer scientists equal to India's in quantity, and more important, in quality. Some government officials have expressed reservations that our IT graduates have low-level or inadequate skills. The result? We have a lot of unemployed IT graduates who don't have the skills valued by our companies much less those in the United States, Germany and Japan. They cannot even go abroad as IT professionals. Meanwhile, we continue to send masses of low-paid and low-skilled domestic workers who are exploited abroad while others are deported back as illegals, in inhuman conditions.

There are a lot of factors that have kept our people in these conditions of virtual slavery, but I

TECHNOLOGY/B17

Add properties to Word documents

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

THE PROPERTY information of your Microsoft Word document provides some interesting information about its documents. Like when a document was first created, its last modification time, the total time you spent editing it and a lot more. You can actually add more information into your document properties by simply following these steps:

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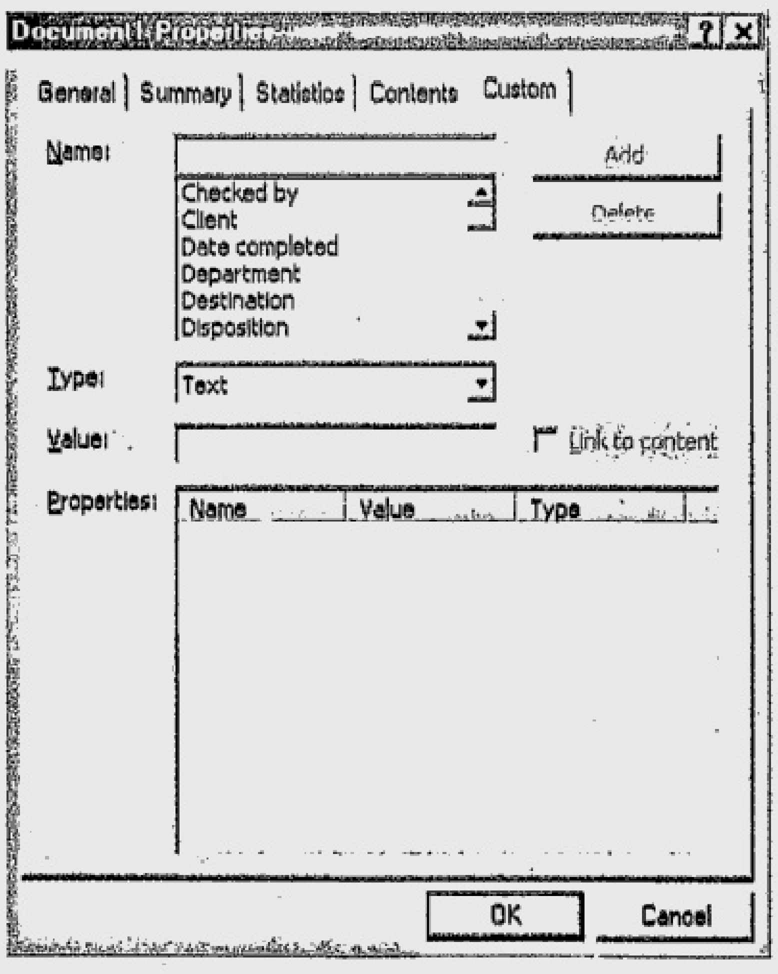
(3) Click on the Custom Tab.
(4) Select the type of information you want to add under the Name box, choose the Data Type, Enter the Value, then click Add. Click OK.

For more tips, visit http://www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm.



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E-tailing business continues to mature

THE GLOBAL e-tailing business—or the selling of retail goods on the Internet—is expected to continue growing and expanding, according to a study from professional service firm KPMG and the Oxford Institute of Retail Management of the University of Oxford.

The study, dubbed by KPMG as the Loyalty4Profit program, investigated the development of e-tailing worldwide, including a research which covered a selection of multi-channel and pure-play online retailers representing several different market sectors.

The study said that the online retailing sector is seen to be maturing, shifting the focus away from operational effectiveness and more toward financial effectiveness, while becoming more sophisticated in its approach to generate customer loyalty and self-marketing.

According to the study, many online retailers are implementing the necessary changes throughout the business, as opposed to relying solely on isolated, front-end marketing activities as predecessors of today's e-retailers did.

The study also said that many e-tailers today consider effective back office operations to be more important than specific promotions in creating customer loyalty as a way of ensuring customers' trust and confidence.

According to the study, customer acquisition and customer retention become more important within the first 18 months of an ônline retailer's existence, or the stage at which the desire to grow a customer base has been achieved. After this period, customer retention and loyalty-specific marketing gain importance. Critical to an online retailers' success is communication with the customer—via online promotions and feedback—at a rate appropriate to the customer's purchasing frequency.

In a separate report meanwhile, Internet giants Yahoo, America Online and eBay have intensified efforts to boost their online retailing services. Yahoo for instance has reportedly started wooing major retailers—in addition to its roster of small retailing companies—to use Yahoo as an online venue for surplus and used goods. AOL, eBay and even Amazon.com have announced similar initiatives earlier, inviting numerous companies to sell surplus goods in their respective sites.

Quadmedia News Agency

T600: Small but feature-rich

SONY Ericsson Philippines has introduced the latest addition to its mobile portfolio, the T600.

The T600 has sleek contours and is incredibly small, designed with convenience and minimalism in mind. However, this phone is jam-packed with features that allow you to always be in touch with others.

The T600's core features include Enhanced Messaging Service technology which allows you to send text messages with pictures and sound. With EMS, you can also swap background pictures and ringing tones.

One of the phone's unique features is the Option key, located directly under the display. With the conveninec of one-press navigation, the user gets to access the phone's menu system a lot faster.

The T-600 also takes user-friendliness and mobility to a higher level with the built-in calendar that can remind users of birthdays, appointments and other important events. Adding event and task details is easy with the calendar's speedy navigation.

The phone also has WAP 1.2.1 that comes with high-speed data access and added security. You can send and receive e-mail and access thousands of WAPsites. Mobile payments and banking also become possible.

All these heavy features for a 63-gram phone.

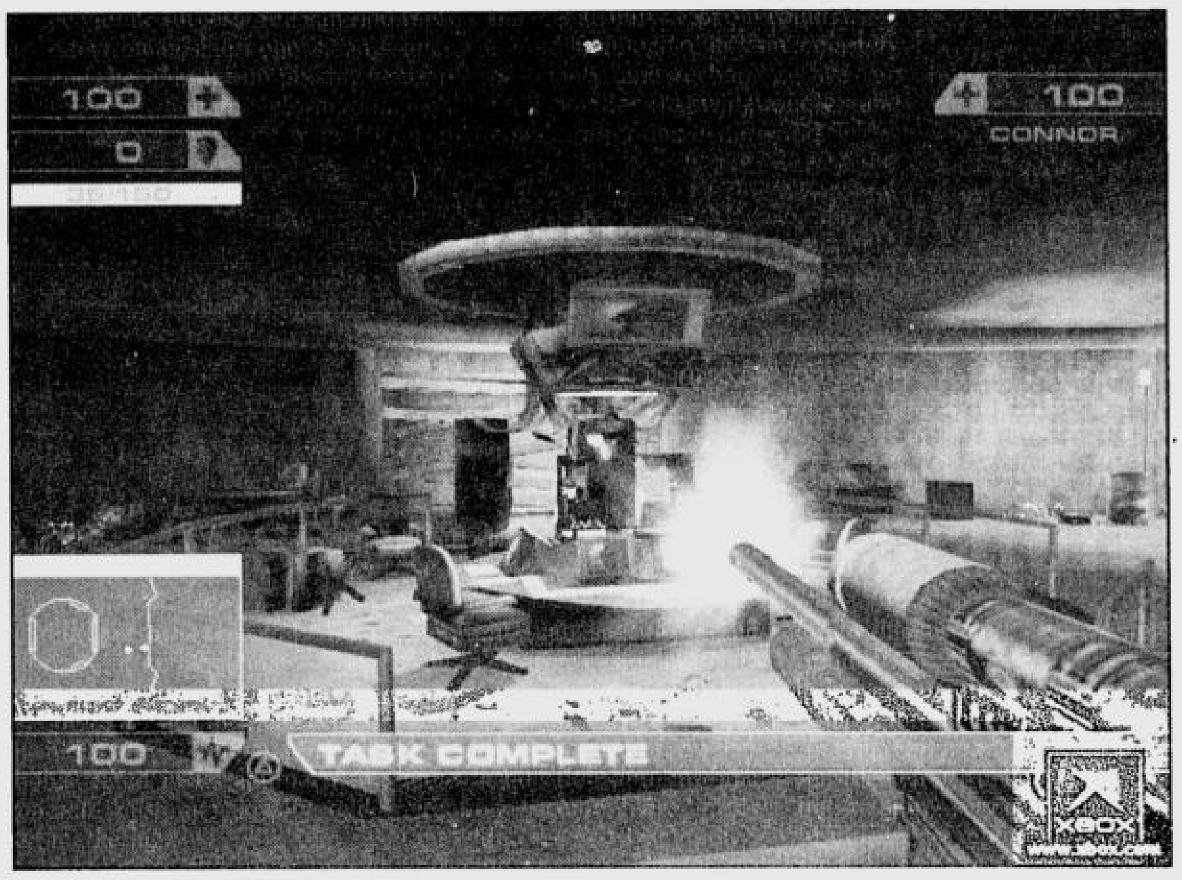
Read this review if you want to live

From page B16

Although you're given a range of high-powered weapons to choose from, I found the close-range, hand-wielded plasma baton to be better in dispatching the robots. All it takes is a rush attack with a flying kick, a swipe down the legs to bring the T-800 down, and a fatal blow with the plasma baton right in the gonads while the machine is down.

Credit goes to Paradigm for incorporating great weapons into the game. You have a choice among the PLM40 assault rifle, the AP50 submachine gun, canister bombs, the turret guns, the grenade launcher and the dependable R6 PAK portable rocket launcher which blows away practically everything in its path. The game also has a good upgrade system. You can buy extra health, armor and weapons at the end of each level using credit tokens you pick up along the way.

The light and sound effects are also good, as well as the atmosphere and environment rendition which gives the game its dark and dreary post-apocalyptic look. But looks and the light and sound show are not everything. The gameplay is rather repetitive, except for two or three instances where you have to do something to a hostage or aid a comrade before you can move to the next level. Check out that level where you take Alexander Stone hostage. How do you make the dang trator move? Figure it out.



Sadly, though, such puzzles which make the player think are lacking in Dawn of Fate. Most of the time, you won't be able to move from one place to another because you can't find a stupid switch or door. Your objectives are clear, you know what to do, but you don't know where to go. I personally hate switch puzzles that make you search instead of think. It's a big waste of time. If you have to figure out which switch to press in succession based on certain environmental consequences, that would be better. Games like "Myst III: Exile" have good examples of this. However, if all you have to do is go around the freakin' map just to look for a switch, then no brain activity is required of you.

Another major flaw of Dawn of Fate is the ugly camera system. First, you can't center the camera behind the character. You can't look around, either, except when targeting (in which case you'd have a good view but you can't move from the same spot).

The game has many shots in front of the character while you're running or in battle. This is sometimes done for a cinematic feel, considering that the game is, after all, based on a movie. However, the consequence of such a technique is that sometimes you don't see where you're going. By the time the camera switches back to a view from behind the character, T-800s would be all over you.

The camera also messes up the game's control. When you're running toward one direction, the camera switches angles and so you also have to switch the direction of your thumbstick because now you're facing the other way. You'd get creamed during fast-paced combat when faced with such a situation. I also had the same problem with "Resident Evil" on the GameCube which has a similar camera setup and similar control problems.

We review this game on the XBox

Action picks up on the 8th level, where you get to fight a human tissue-covered T-800. Sorry folks, this one does not look like that action star in the movie, the muscular guy from Austria whose name sounds like a sneeze. Still, this boss battle is tough. You have to whittle down the T-800's health from 100 to zero not once, not twice but three times. You kick his butt once with a load of grenades and you tear the flesh from him. After which the metal endoskeleton will continue to attack you. You frag this guy again down to zero health points and it'll lose its lower torso. But still, in true Terminator fashion, this thing will still go after you, even if it has to drag itself across the floor. In the words of Reese: "It can't be bargained with. It can't be reasoned with. It does not feel pain. Nor remorse. It will keep on hunting you until you are dead."

Chapter 9 sees you switching back to Capt. Perry, and you get rocket launchers and a truckload of ammo, health and weapons—a sign that you're near the end. Once you're finally inside Norad with Lt. Luna, and after blasting T-800s and aerial HKs (hunter-killers) out of the galaxy, you switch back to Reese, who becomes the hero of the day.

As Reese, you get to infiltrate SkyNet's main control room and you get to face an interesting problem while trying to blow the snot out of the central computer. After which you'd discover that the T-800, played in the movie by that bodybuilder with a weird accent, has gone through the time machine back to 1984. Reese makes the same trip back in time to where the first Terminator movie started. Only then will you be treated to a short sample of the eerie Terminator theme and a long cut scene of the Stone brothers escaping and . . . what's that? A SkyNet satellite backup in orbit up in space? And it's beaming a database restore command back down to Earth! Talk about an off-site backup and the possibility of—Heaven forbid—a sequel to the prequel?

Please spare us.

And what was the name of that Austrian bodybuilder-turned actor?

File swapping killing music industry

By Gerry Plaza

INCREASED file sharing and swapping, compact disc "burning" and piracy have rung the death knell for entertainment industries around the world, particularly the multibillion-dollar US recording market struck hardest by the surge of online technology.

Research group comScore Networks released this week a study showing online music sales slumping as even traditional music sales fall sharply despite a general upsurge in e-commerce. According to comScore, online music sales dropped 25 percent from $730 million last year to a mere $545 million this year.

Despite the demise of most popular file-swapping sites such as Napster, Audiogalaxy, and the rest, comScore says that Web users continue to utilize free sharing of music files, even whole CD albums and movies, on alternative sites such as Morpheus and Kazaa, and the file sharing software WinMX, which keep more and more people out of music stores and video shops.

CD burning is also a noted cause of the steep drop, although pundits would consider such a practice an obvious form of piracy—where unauthorized duplication and/or distribution of the intellectual property is prohibited, a notice stated clearly on the CD packaging. As such, killing the practice can be easily addressed by traditional forms of anti-piracy campaigns.

But the heated discussion lies on the area of file-swapping, considered a gray area in most legal circles since it is by nature "sharing" between community members and electronic copies, not the physical CD, are being distributed. Industry lawyers have maintained that an electronic copy of recorded music distributed on the Internet is still piracy since the intellectual property would fall on the musical work or content and not the physical CD. On the other hand, Napster advocates contend that file "sharing" is not piracy but only a method of exchanging artistic content for non-commercial use.

As the debate broadens, still most Internet users particularly in the United States see the free download as the wiser move than having to travel miles to get the new CDs or singles of Avril Lavigne, Creed, Santana or the Foo Fighters. An artist search on these entries would reveal not only their current offerings but also past releases.

Not surprisingly, this reality also keeps Internet surfers from purchasing music online despite the continuing growth in e-commerce. The decline, the report says, "accelerated throughout 2002, with sales declining versus year-ago by 12 percent, 28 percent and 39 percent in the first, second and third quarters of 2002, respectively.'

Even token-cost subscription services have not taken off, the study says, while such music file swapping continues.

Napster long dominated this sector, claiming a 70-million user base, before a series of court cases lodged by US recording companies and artists eventually ended the service. Music labels and artists, such as the heavy metal group Metallica, have considered Napster's vast music collection downloadable to any user who subscribes to its free service as piracy.

For Internet users, however, file swapping is a way to express artistic and creative freedoms. As such, the demise of Napster paved the way for other similar sites to mushroom and accommodate the affected users. As more of these sites get their own share of court suits, another set of file swapping sites proliferate—a sign that the recording industry's problem could not be solved through legal battles.

Why is music file sharing rampant? The mere ease of creating, collating and distributing music files over the Internet at the slightest cost and to the user presents the compelling reason. For the widely connected United States, not even a glossy music CD package, with all the nifty freebies that come with it, could compare to the convenience of the swapped music file—with audio quality sometimes eclipsing the original copy itself. Add to that the immense choices the user has in selecting and acquiring the music he wants all at the click of the mouse, whenever, wherever.

How the music labels would convince a majority of music buffs—who are mostly Internet addicts as well—to stop file swapping and get the "genuine stuff" is really a daunting, if not Quixotic, task. Costly, even.

Technology management course . . .

From page B16

think the primary one is the lack of focus on science and technology. The government must create this focus. Look at Japan. Japan was able to turn itself into an economic world power second only to the United States, because its government had created a policy of obtaining technology, both military and industrial, that is equal or better than those of other countries. That has made them feared in war, and prosperous in peace.

Psychologist Edgar Schein said that 'all learning is motivated by anxiety or fear. We should be fearful facing a future of economic servitude. But the good news is, we don't have to learn by instinct. The Technology Management program can teach us what we and our government planners need.

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Palm, Microsoft slug it out for dominance in mobile OS business

MICROSOFT Corp. and Palm Inc. continue to get the lion's share of the global mobile operating system (OS) business, with vertical markets continuing to use mobile devices—such as personal digital assistants or PDAs, mobile phones and notebook PCs—to increase business productivity. This is according to a survey from research firm International Data Corp. (IDC)' from the United States.

A similar report from rival research firm Dataquest likewise validates this trend which showed Palm OS leading the market with a 30.6-percent market share followed by Microsoft's Windows CE/Pocket PC with a 28.8-percent stake in the handheld OS business.

Moreover, according to IDC, although mobility has been embraced in vertical markets, a single mobile device OS has yet to become the de facto standard, with Microsoft and Palm reportedly the top two OS of choice for vertical markets.

In a survey of 1,000 mobile users, IDC said that vertical markets—including health care, education and government—continue to be Palm OS territory, while Microsoft's Windows CE/Pocket PC is the preferred platform for mobility solutions within sales/service and utilities segments.

IDC also said that vertical markets are also set to continue using mobile solutions for the enterprise, with mobile customer relationship management (CRM) applications, applications for the improvement of workflow, and increasing mobile worker productivity as the major drivers in many vertical markets in 2003.

Furthermore, although many companies are more and more embracing mobile solutions, there is a strong indication for a need to come up with more relatively simple mobile applications such as those in the area of messaging that would enable employees to access e-mail and word processing while on the road.

IDC also predicts that the "extension" of CRM applications to mobile workers represents a significant opportunity among vertical markets including insurance, banking and telecommunications, along with professional services and manufacturing segments. These applications remain the key drivers of mobile solutions.

"Vertical markets tend to be earlier adopters of mobile technology and mobility solutions because they tend to take advantage of functions that are offered. These markets are a major force in driving the extension of CRM applications to mobile environments, as well as the adoption of wireless networks," said Randy Giusto, IDC vice president for personal technology and services.

The Dataquest report meanwhile said Palm—including its OEMs for the Palm OS—continues to dominate the global handheld market despite some slowdown in handheld shipment for the third quarter of 2002.

The Palm OS is used by other PDAs as well, including products from Handspring such as the Visor and Treo.

Meanwhile, the Pocket PC OS is used by PDAs from HP, Compaq, Toshiba and Casio. Older versions of these PDAs use the Windows CE OS.

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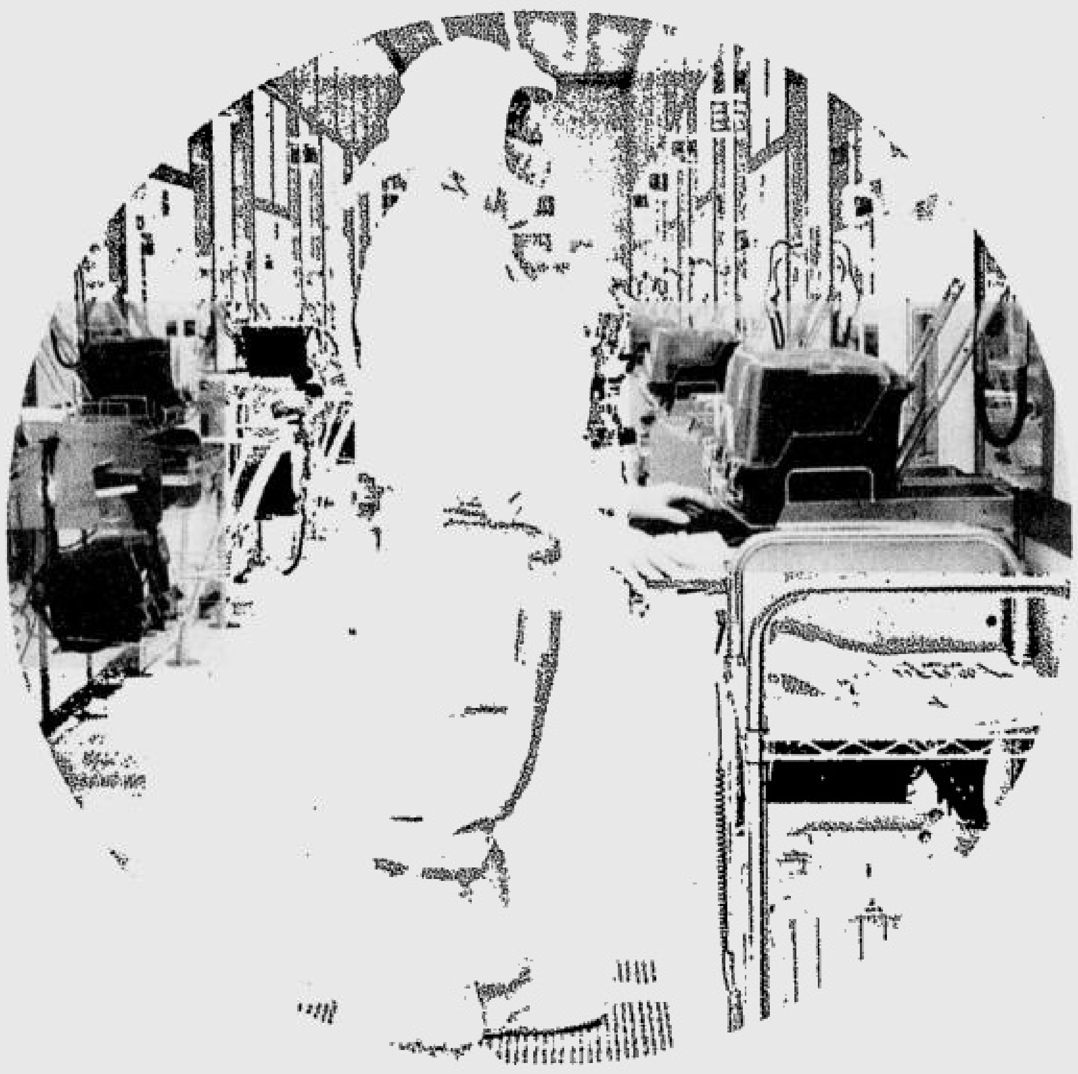

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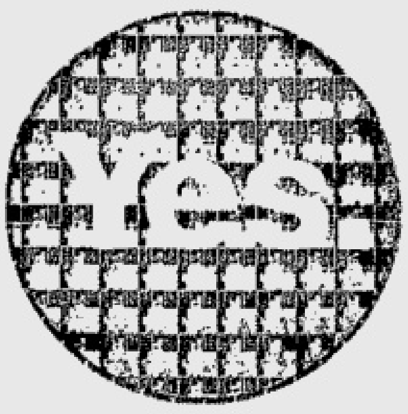

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INT'L ECONOMIC BAROMETER

CEO confidence in global economy dives

SENIOR executives in the Asia-Pacific region are significantly more pessimistic about the outlook of the global economy over the next 12 months than their counterparts in North America or Europe, according to research published today by Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS), the market information company, in consultation with Deloitte Consulting.

The proportion of senior executives in Asia Pacific who believe that "global economic conditions will improve" over the next 12 months has decreased by more than half (51 percent) between the second and third quarters of 2002. This contrasts with a decrease of 15 percent in the expectations of executives in Europe over the same period of time and an increase of 10 percent among executives in North America.

The study questions more than 600 chief executive officers, chief finance officers, chief operating officers and chief information officers, heads of strategy and tax directors every quarter from leading companies in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America.

The study found that 45 percent of senior executives in Asia Pacific questioned, believe "that global economic conditions will get worse over the next 12 months" compared with just 2 percent who had felt this in the second quarter and 16 percent in the first.

The global economic outlook was not viewed with such a strong degree of pessimism by executives in Europe, although 19 percent questioned still said they thought conditions will worsen in the next 12 months compared with 11 percent in the second quarter.

In contrast, just 5 percent of executives in North America anticipated a decline in the global economic climate, down from 10 percent in the second quarter.

John Smurthwaite, chair of TNS Asia Pacific commented: "The 'Global Economic Confidence Barometer' reveals wide fluctuations in attitudes and confidence about the future performance of the world economy at a regional level, as well as across different market sectors. The study also demonstrates how quickly the views of senior business people can adapt to the uncertain conditions of the marketplace and this is particularly evident in these third quarter findings.

"As, key influencers in economic growth, the views of those senior executives questioned as part of the study collectively represent a potential indicator of how the economy will perform."

Other key findings include:

Globally, respondents from companies with revenues of less than $1

CEO/ C2

KIM

Exec adopts Korean style to lead staff

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Korea staged a dramatic economic recovery after the war partly due to the discipline of the Korean people and the single-minded pursuit of their goal to rise up from the ashes of that sad episode in their long history.

These traits of hard work, discipline and ethics carry on to this day among Koreans including Hyunil Kim, the new regional manager of Asiana Airlines and head of the Philippine operations.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

The Seoul National University graduate tells the INQUIRER that Korean executives like him apply these qualities in the way they do business. This was why one of the first things Kim did when he got the assignment last July was to set clear goals for the Philippines.

"I called a management meeting as soon as I arrived. We set the goals over the next six months, next one year and even for my four-year tenure. I believe that this is important to give them a clear focus on what we want to achieve," the 38-year-old executive says.

Very strict

Kim admits to being very strict about hierarchy in the organization, saying that it must have been an offshoot of his upbringing. He shares that Koreans undergo compulsory military training, which stresses the concepts of organization and of putting the group's welfare over personal interests.

"It is kind of an old concept. Here it is more liberalized. Some people do not care about hierarchy and sometimes their individual needs become paramount. This is what I try to balance," he says.

Kim, however, tried to smooth the way towards working well with his Filipino staff by calling every employee to his office for a 30-minute meeting.

"It took about a month for me to complete my talks but I was very pleased to have that chance to talk. I hope they realize that their boss is sincere and willing to listen. I learned that it was the first time for many to go to the manager's office," he says.

Open communication

Kim's conversation with his employees was one of his priorities when he arrived because he believes in the power of communication.

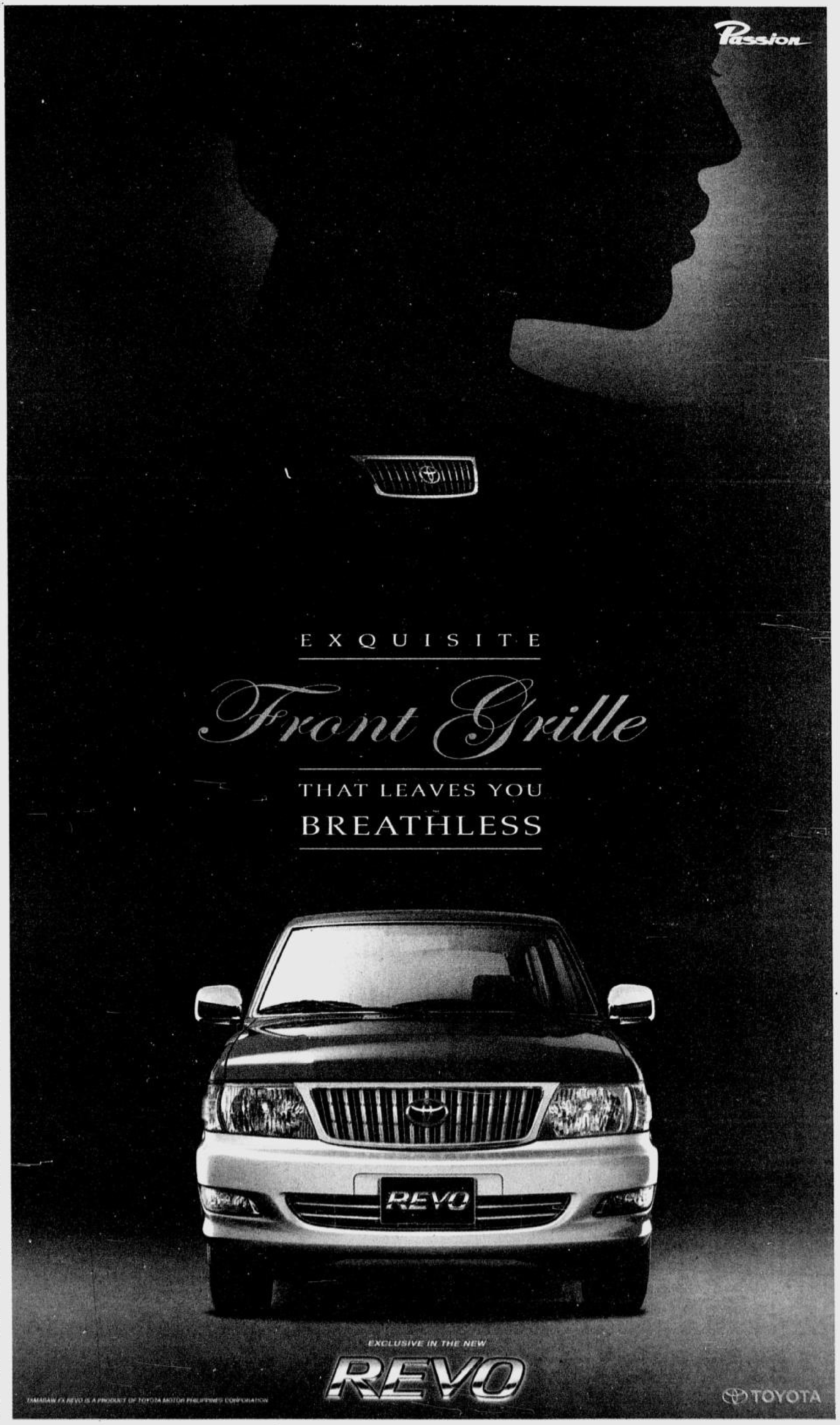
"Everybody has access to my room. I really believe that open communication helps people produce more," he says.

Kim also puts importance in giving credit where credit is due, and in extending the corresponding rewards.

Asiana Airlines' management, for instance, announced last month a reward system for its employees that perform above the call of duty.

"We want to be very fair about their contri-

EXEC/ C2



Phone firm sets new sales targets for color phones

MUNICH, Germany—Finland's Nokia, the world's largest mobile phone maker, on Tuesday set new sales targets for its most advanced phones, which it hopes will ignite growth in the stagnant wireless industry.

Nokia chief executive Jorma Ollila said his company would ship between 50 and 100 million mobile phones with color screens in 2003.

He did not give a comparable number for 2002, but market estimates are for Nokia to sell just several million units.

Ollila also told the company's annual mobile Internet conference here in Munich that more than half of the firm's phones sold next year would use multimedia messaging (MMS), which lets users send and receive pictures and sound clips to and from mobile phones.

"Revenue growth will primarily be driven by MMS and other advanced services," Ollila said.

Nokia, which currently makes almost four out of every 10 mobile phones sold to end-users, announced six new color screen phones on Monday, some of which featured built-in cameras.

The mobile phone industry hopes that picture messaging and other data applications will offset declining voice communications revenues.

Europe's largest operator Vodafone from Britain said it had set a target to generate at least 20 percent of revenues from data services within two years, almost double the current level which comes almost completely from text messages.

Nokia shares were flat at 17.77 euros, outperforming the Dow Jones European tech index, which fell 1.3 percent. The shares had risen in anticipation of the product announcements.

Meanwhile, phone makers such as Nokia hope that mobile phone users will replace their voice handsets for color screen camera phones and other mobile data devices.

The once booming wireless industry experienced its first handset sales decline last year and is expecting more or less stable sales this year at around 400 million units.

"This is still a long-term growth industry," Ollila assured his audience, pointing to the new devices the company just announced and which will hit the shelves early next year.

Nokia also introduced a phone that will double as a mobile gaming device, taking on the 12 million units a year in Gameboy Advance sales by Japan's Nintendo and adding it would become a mobile games publisher too. *Reuters*

CEO confidence in global economy dives

From page C1

billion were almost twice as likely to think that global economic conditions will get worse in the next 12 months compared with those from companies with revenues of $3 billion or more.

In addition, confidence among those from companies with sales below $1 billion showed the most dramatic decline between the second and third quarters with an increase of 19 percentage points in the proportion of businesses predicting that global economic conditions will get worse.

- The most pessimistic business sector globally was heavy industry with more than a third (37 percent) of respondents in the third quarter saying there would be a deterioration in the global economic climate over the next 12 months. None agreed with this statement in the first and second quarters. In contrast, just 12 percent of respondents from the financial services sector felt that economic conditions would worsen.
- CEOs and tax directors demonstrated the most significant decline in confidence since the first quarter at the global level with heads of strategy and CIOs emerging as the most optimistic over the past three quarters.

Carl Steidtmann, chief economist, Deloitte Consulting, said: "The outlook in Asia-Pacific is affected by the particular difficult economic climate in Japan. Recent deflation has been exacerbated by the government's failure to invest adequately in the yen, coupled with weak consumer spending and low profitability. These factors have created an extremely low level of confidence across most sectors.

"At the same time, in spite of the generally buoyant performance of economies in China, Korea and Australia, optimism is clearly guarded. This may reflect, in part, anticipation of the impact of the 10-day labor dispute by dock workers in main ports on the West Coast of the US which began just after the research was undertaken.

In addition, the short-term global political and military outlook may appear far more gloomy to a CEO in Asia-Pacific than to one in the United States because of its potential impact on oil supplies from the Middle East and the limitations it could pose on travel and the movement of goods."

The Global Economic Confidence Barometer (GECB) measures the optimism of more than 2,500 business people annually who drive the global economy, (CEOs, CFOs, COOs, CIOs, heads of strategy and tax directors) from the world's largest companies across 12 markets.

The GECB data is conducted by TNS Professional Services, a division, of TNS responsible for research on professional markets including Audit & Assurance, Tax, Law and Consulting. TNS Professional Services runs independent studies of professional markets through its Image & Performance and Global Monitor programs.

Through its international network of 230 offices in more than 50 countries, Taylor Nelson Sofres provides market information services in over 100 countries to national and multinational organizations. It is ranked as the fourth largest market information group in the world. Further information on Taylor Nelson Sofres is available from the corporate website: www.tnsofres.com

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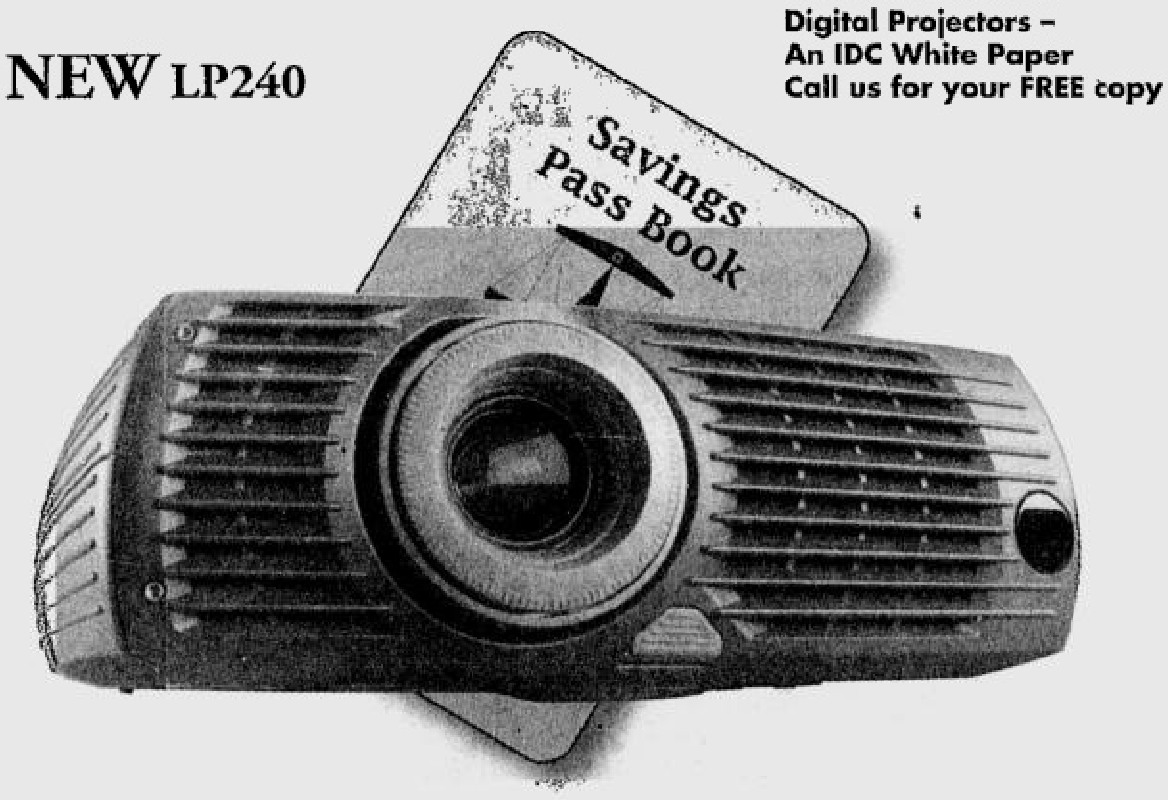

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'Bayanihan' culture as competitive advantage

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Franco G. Del Rosario

THIS ARTICLE gives a definition of culture and briefly explains a model that describes a firm's culture, then refer to the United Laboratories organization in explaining different cultures.

It will show how corporate culture can be the greatest opportunity to success.

Unilab is one of the Philippines' "2001 Best Employers in Asia" and was awarded the Agora Marketing Company of the Year 2001.

Corporate culture is a pattern of shared values, learned in solving problems in meeting market and external demands that has worked well enough to be considered valid and taught to group members as the correct way to perceive, analyze, and feel in relation to similar problems.

Parameters

Corporate culture is based on two parameters, namely a culture's degree of sociability and solidarity.

Sociability is a measure of friendliness among the people. People do kind things for one another because they want to and they extend relationships outside the office.

At the other end of the spectrum is the firm's degree of solidarity. It is based on clearly shared goals and agreed-upon methods and rewards for professional behaviors. It is characterized by ruthlessness and piercing focus.

The levels of sociability and solidarity fall along a continuum.

Four types of culture

Hence, the four types of cultures are defined using the sociability and solidarity axis, namely, (1) "networked": high sociability and low solidarity, (2) "driven": high solidarity, low sociability, (3) "compartmentalized": low on both, and (4) "communal": high on both.

With the various organizational units in Unilab involved in different types of businesses and functions, several cultures exist at once; but the one dominant culture is the Bayanihan culture.

Unilab's Bayanihan culture is actually a "communal" culture because it embodies both sociability and solidarity.

Bayanihan exemplifies the value of cooperation and solidarity toward the attainment of goals.

According to Alejandro R. Roces, Bayanihan means "to be united in task, any joint action by a group in which each person subordinates individual interest to the efficiency of the group." In one word, it is teamwork.

According to Celso Al. Carunungan, the word actually comes from "Bayan" which means community and "anihan" which means harvest (everybody helps; everybody gains). It is easy to understand how Bayanihan became Unilab's culture as it was born out of its creed that "people are the greatest asset."

The Bayanihan culture is a total commitment to democratic professional management and employees' welfare. According to J. Y. Campos, Unilab's founder, "Only a company with a real mission that comes out of spiritual dimensions will capture people's hearts - and you must have hearts and minds to inspire the hard work to realize a vision."

The Bayanihan culture is based on the following premises:

(1) Employees are capable of giving the best of themselves to promote the good of the company.

(2) Very high productivity is achieved by taking good care of people and getting them to participate in the running of the company.

(3) "Malasakit" (empathy)—putting the joys and sufferings of employees—permeates all endeavors which activates bayanihan spirit resulting in the employee sparing no effort in working for the good of the firm.

Jesus R. Solomon, a senior executive at Unilab, says, "at all levels of the organization, varied issues are discussed until a solution is reached.

Everyone knows the reason for the decision, even those who may not agree, and will implement it. Always, the criteria is what's good for the company and for the people."

Bernie Villegas called the Unilab management style "enlightened paternalism" which is described as the constant delicate blending of authority and freedom.

Another way to describe Unilab's Bayanihan culture is from Angel B. Perez, chairman of Unilab's 25th Employees Council, "Unilab is completely committed to corporate development through employee fulfillment."

Generally speaking, multinational companies are very focused on goals. Hence, they belong to the "driven" culture.

Unilab's president and COO Carlos Ejercito's background is from two multinational corporations (Citibank and IBM). There are many other executives that have brought in to Unilab from multinational companies.

I personally interviewed 13 Unilab executives. Some of them have been with Unilab for most of their career and some came from multinational companies.

I could sense there was mutual respect for the traditional Bayanihan culture as well as the "driven" culture influence from those with multinational company experience. Everyone appreciates that Unilab is where it is because of the role of the Bayanihan culture.

At the same time, the company desires to continue to attain double-digit growth rate in a more global economy. There is no good or bad culture per se. It is actually the business environment that points to which culture is the most appropriate for a company.

Different cultures

Basically, the "driven" culture should be more dominant for those operations that are faced with these kind of scenarios: (1) the business is under competitive siege, (2) improving productivity and performance is a must, (3) change is fast and rampant, (4) the organization needs to move quickly and in concert, and (5) customers judge it by pure numbers, such as lowest cost.

Based on my interviews with the Unilab executives, it is evident Unilab is carefully infusing a little bit more of the "driven" culture in those businesses operating in a similar environment I described above.

The challenge for Unilab is to maintain the perfect balance of the different cultures that exist and to understand how these cultures work together and clash.

Most research and development organizations are for the most part belong to a "compartmentalized" culture. This is so when innovation comes mainly from individual activities and it is suitable for people that require high levels of freedom and individuality. This is true for Unilab.

A "networked" culture is ideal when a lot of creativity is required.

Creativity comes easier when there is complete trust in the organization. However, the "networked" culture becomes negative when a high level of loyalty and commitment is directed to colleagues before the company.

The "communal" culture is difficult to maintain precisely as sociability and solidarity contradict each other. Hence, a balancing act that entails careful exhaustive management attention is absolutely required. This is a challenge for Unilab.

I gained a good appreciation for Unilab's "communal" culture. It was obvious in the way it handled the closure of a depot. The final "send-off" ceremony of the company, attended by senior executives became an extremely emotional event.

The departing employees spontaneously started singing the company song. This group even took out an advertisement in the newspaper at their own expense to express to the world their deep gratitude and love to Unilab.

This clearly shows that culture can make the difference for a company that wins and loses; and for the individual between joy on the job and drudgery. The choice is yours!

You can hear more about this from Ejercito himself. He will be speaking in the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Forum on "What keeps CEOs awake at nights?" on Wednesday at the Export Bank Plaza (formerly the Urban Bank Plaza).

For more information, please call the MAP secretariat at 751-1149 to 52.

(The author is a member of MAP and chair of Sharexchange Brokers Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph).

Exec adopts . . .

From page C1

bution. If they contribute more, they will get more," he stresses.

Kim, however, says he is fortunate because the staff members of Asiana Airlines are professional and driven toward achieving the company's goals.

"I really believe that the human resources here is one of the best in the world and I say that to my staff. This is why I tell them that Asiana should also be the best because the people are the best," he says.

Kim is no stranger to the Philippines. He visited before as part of his job to hammer out bilateral commercial agreements with other airlines, thus, he found it easy to adjust.

"My people tell me that they find my style unusual but they seem to like it," he says.

The challenge these days, he explains, is to get Asiana Airlines to become one of the biggest in the Philippines despite the sad state that the entire airline industry is in right now.

"The business has been slow because the terrorist attacks have really affected the flight industry. This is our challenge," he says.

Korea-based Asiana Airlines has one of the youngest and most advanced fleets in Asia, with 55 Boeing and Airbus aircraft. The seats in its business class have a 135-degree recline, a feature that other carriers have only in the first class section.

Asiana Airlines operates in both Kimpo International Airport and the year-old Incheon International Airport.

It is affiliated with the Kumho Group, Korea's largest road transportation and tire manufacturing company.

Asiana was the first airline in the world to receive an ISO 14001 certification for environmental protection and management, ISO 9002 quality certification for both Seoul and Manila operations and a British Standard 7750 certificate in recognition of its environment-friendly management system.

To have real competitive edge, plan strategically

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

"OH, for the days ...," sighed a hotel and restaurant owner I know, "when all a businessman had to do was put up his company sign and customers would flow in."

As my hotelier-friend realizes only too well, the "good old days" have long since vanished and are not about to come back. He has also realized that for his hotel-restaurant to survive and grow, he must be willing to change and adopt new business models.

New environment

The new environment for doing business has been brought about, according to Tom Friedman, in his book "The Lexus and the Olive Tree," by three elements: the democratization of technology; the democratization of finance, and the democratization of information.

Improved access to technology, finance and information have brought companies closer to their customers. The result: consumers empowered to demand more choices and more values; consumers who can move away from companies who won't deliver.

With trade liberalization, what used to be thought of as competitive advantages no longer automatically translates to competitive strength.

With globalization, deeply-rooted weaknesses of underdeveloped companies—whether engaged in export or not—have been exposed. For many small businesses, import replacement is as significant as export growth.

Strategic planning

"Companies should have strategic plans. Having such a plan will give them real competitive advantage," says Dr. Felix M. Lao, Agora Awardee and lecturer in marketing of the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI).

Inline Technology Marketing provides some compelling reasons why a company should develop a comprehensive strategic marketing plan:

- It forces management to set priorities and answer tough questions, like: What are your company's strengths? Weaknesses? What will your product do for the consumer that the competing product won't? What messages do you want to send to the marketplace? What negative issues are you dealing with now that need to be overcome?
- It provides a benchmark to ensure that marketing initiatives fully support an organization's business objectives. Programs that don't support those objectives will become evident during the building of the plan and can be put aside.
- A sound plan will help maximize and leverage marketing investment. Determining a company-wide marketing strategy upfront will save time and resources, and allow management to see where it can leverage certain initiatives for even more impact.
- A solid plan will help the organization speak with "one voice" so that all marketing activities are fully integrated and consistent.
- A strategic plan can unify employees and strengthen the company's focus on meeting its core objectives.

Need to persevere

For plans to succeed, according to Dr. Lao, it is important to involve staff and workers, set realistic targets to avoid the expectation of "too much, too fast," allocate resources, and persevere.

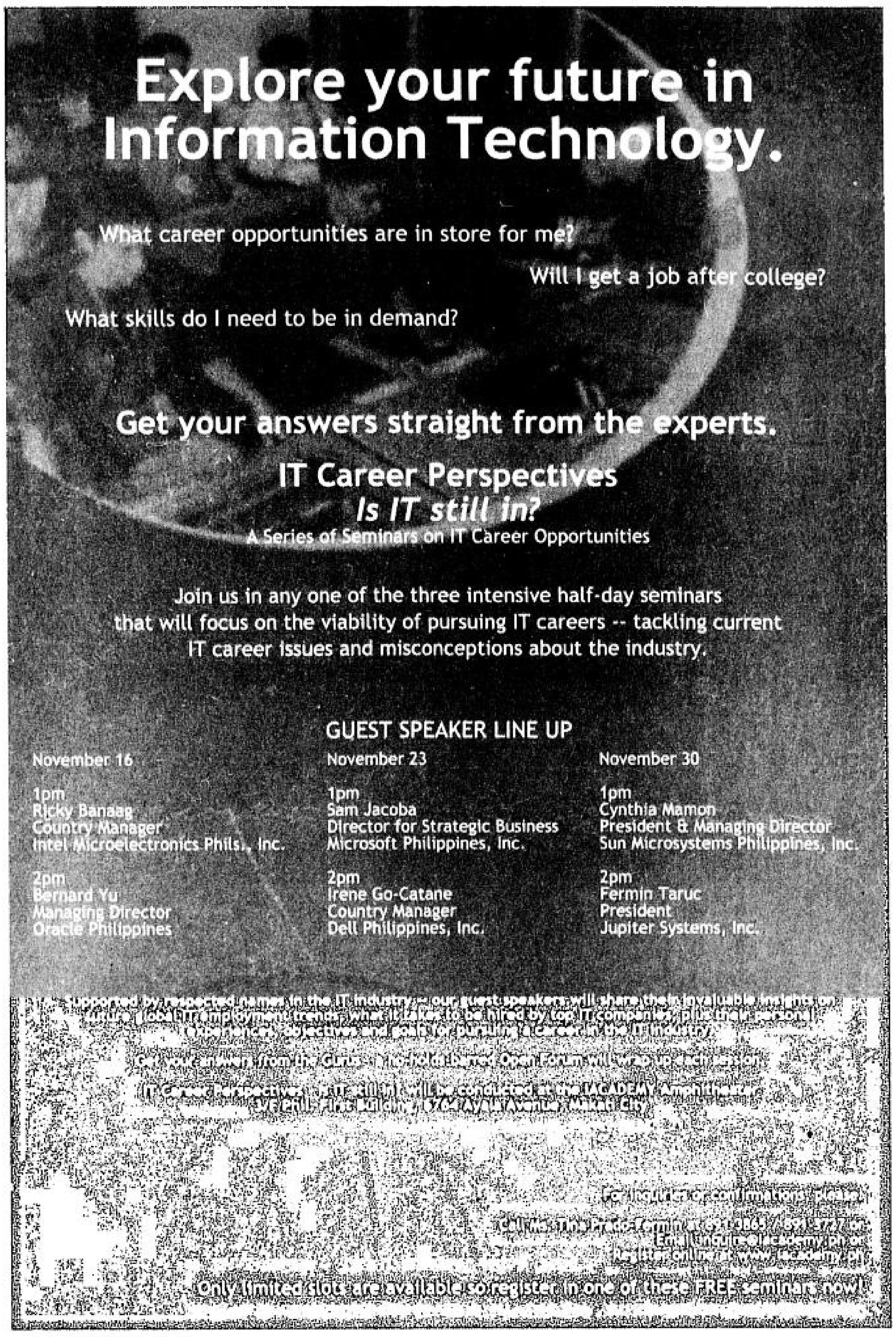
There will always be people in the organization who would say "we tried it before but it didn't work." That is why perseverance is important; the firm has to stick with the plan. It usually takes 18-24 months to see results of any new marketing initiative.

Small businesses in the country who have yet to adopt strategic marketing into their business practices are invited to attend a one-day seminar on "Improve Your Business thru Strategic Marketing" which will be held on Nov. 24 at the UP ISSI classrooms at the UP Diliman, Campus.

Scholarships Available

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (US AID), scholarships to the training program will be available to the first 300 registrants.

(Those interested may contact 926-6316, 929-6918, or 928-7076 to 79; fax 927-1034; or training.issi@up.edu.ph.)



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2pm Bernard Yu Managing Director Oracle Philippines	2pm Irene Go-Catane Country Manager Dell Philippines, Inc.	2pm Fermin Taruc President Jupiter Systems, Inc.

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IT Career Perspectives: Is IT still in? will be conducted at the iACADEMY Amphitheater, 3/F Phil. First Building, 6764 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

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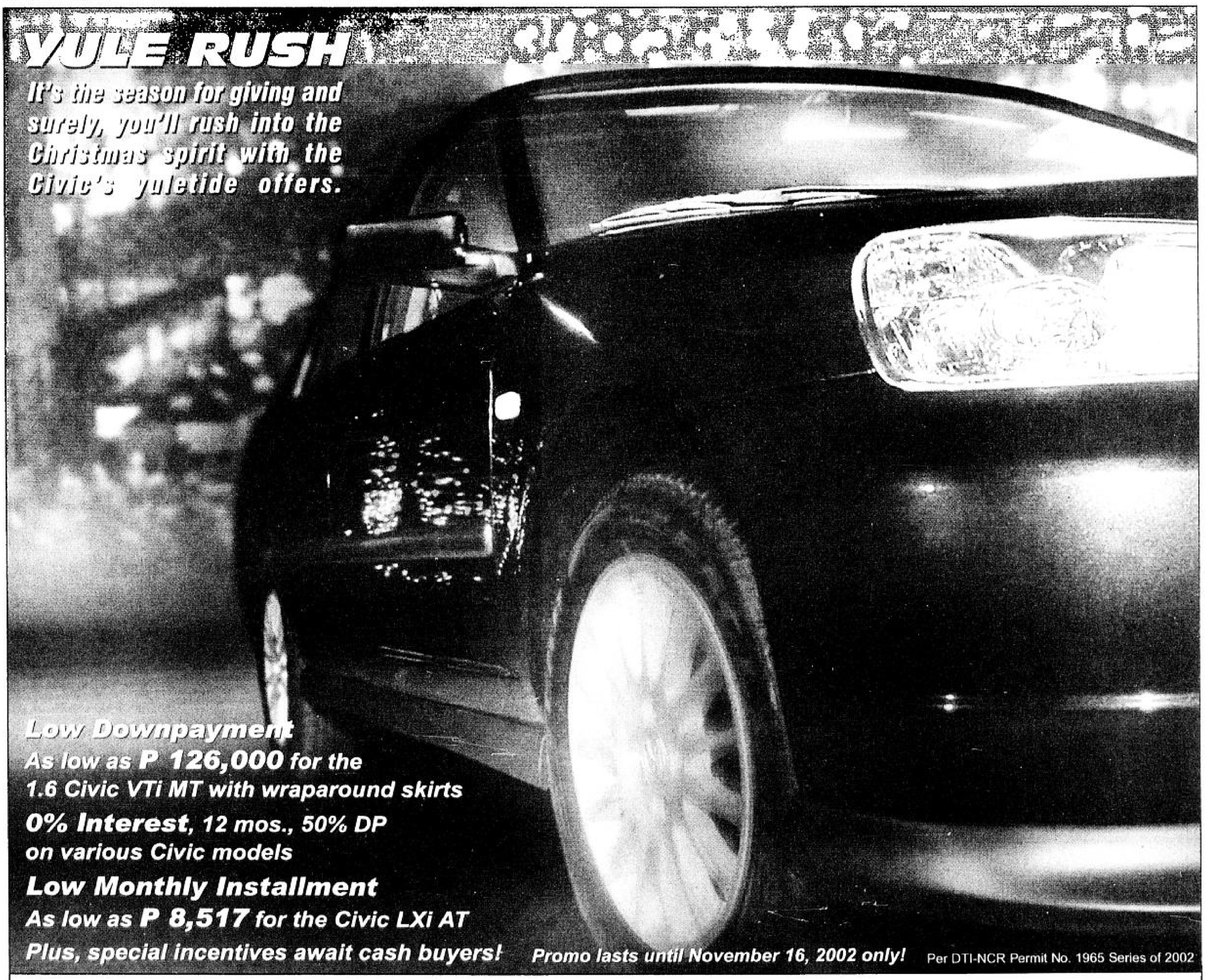

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HONDA

Direct selling: Breaking barriers to entrepreneurship

NOW more than ever, the country is in dire need of entrepreneurs.

As every nation strives to survive the global downturn caused by terrorism, economists all over the world are underlining the urgent need for people who will create, instead of look, for job opportunities.

It is under these challenging conditions that direct selling has emerged and proven itself as one of the most attractive and expedient routes towards entrepreneurship.

New formal course

Although the country experienced a massive influx of direct selling firms employing network and multi-level marketing distribution methods during the '90's, there has been no formal course that teaches the necessary skills to start, sustain, and grow a distributor business.

Until now.

De La Salle University (DLSU) has recently joined forces with Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) to achieve a milestone in Philippine marketing education by offering the first-ever "Certificate Course in Direct Selling and Network Marketing" to be held on Nov. 20-22 at the, DLSU campus, Manila.

As a primer, the DSAP shares two out of the countless aspects on how direct selling breaks down the barriers to entrepreneurship:

- **Low capital requirements (compared to traditional businesses).**

To start-up a traditional business, entrepreneurs must first find and then furnish an office or store. As a standard practice, two months deposit and one month advanced rent payment is required.

Also, most traditional businesses are expected to extend a credit line to their clients which means that the entrepreneur must have enough cash in the coffers for all financial needs during the first three to six months. Even without summing up the cost for inventory and salaries, the initial capital requirement could easily run up to hundreds of thousands up to the millions.

Direct selling firms tears down this "capital barrier" by allowing entrepreneurs to set up a profitable operation with just a few hundred pesos which already covers the costs of promotional materials and training.

Direct selling entrepreneurs can latch-on to tried and tested business models instead of having to learn the ropes of running a business by trial-and-error.

Direct selling is a business that places a premium on results achieved using professional and specialized skills, not on how much money is plunked into the business.

- **Determine your own working time, be your own boss, determine your income.**

One of the reasons people shy from entrepreneurship is because of time.

The punishing hours that come part-and-parcel with entrepreneurship has led many a business-owner to comment, "I envy those who are employed, their work stops once the bundy clock rings.

Business owners take their work along with them in their heads wherever they go."

Direct selling allows distributors to start their business and maintain their freedom, too.

Direct selling entrepreneurs craft their own income targets and prepare their own working schedules in order to meet these projections. They do not need to worry about structuring their organization or providing training and human resource development because these services are already provided by the mother company.

Direct selling entrepreneurs earn by selling products either on their own, or through other entrepreneurs that they bring into the business. No time cards, no quotas, only self-imposed goals and working schedules.

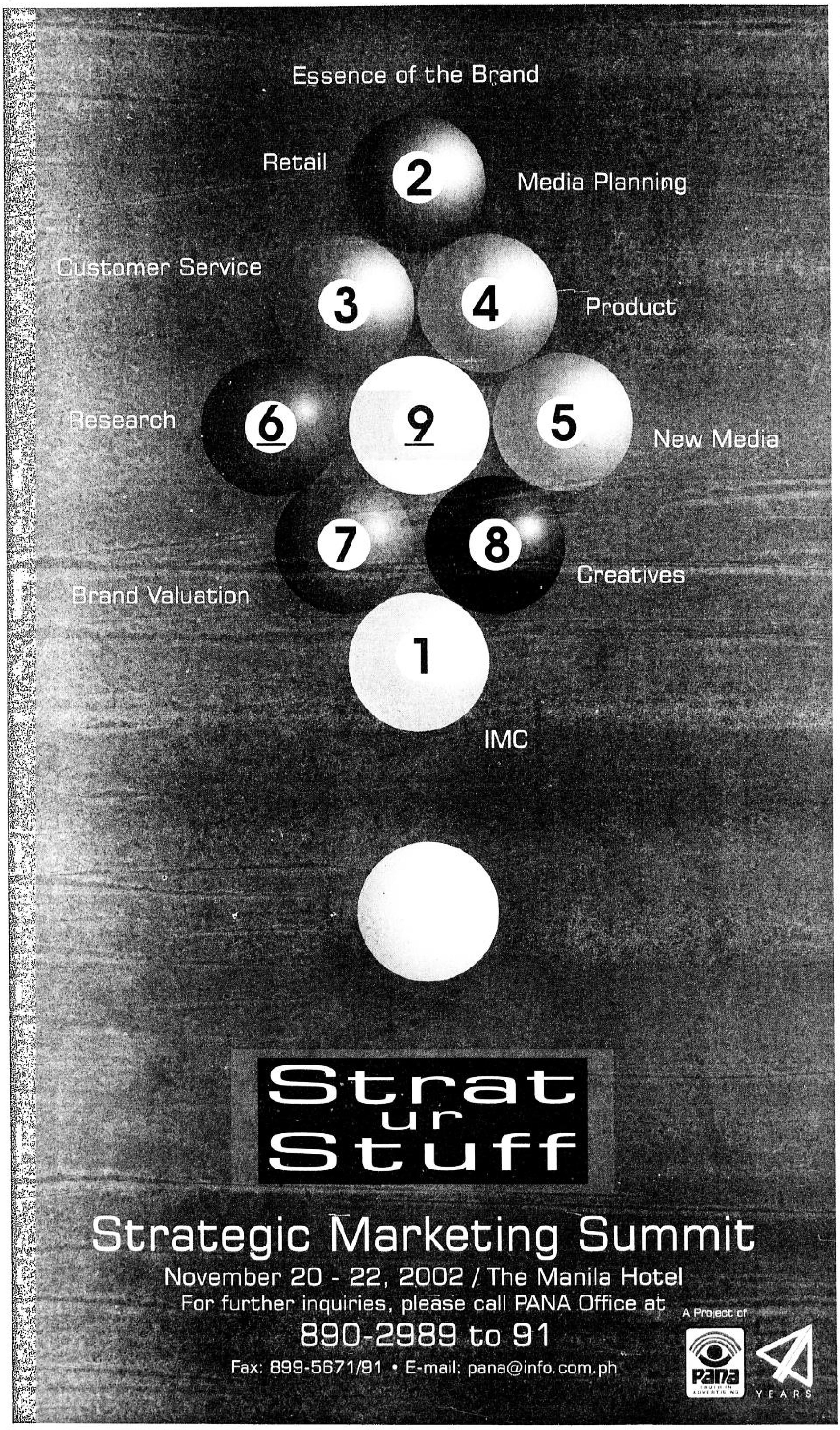
Membership profile

The DSAP represents 25 member-companies with a combined sales force of more than 2 million distributors nationwide. At the turn of the millennium, DSAP registered an aggregate total estimated sales of P14.9 billion, up by 20 percent from the previous year.

This growth occurred despite a mere 4.5 percent and 4 percent expansion of GNP and GDP, respectively over the same period.

The DSAP member companies are Amway, Avon Cosmetics, Cosway, Filway Marketing, Gioielli, Global Brands, GNLD, Herbalife, Herway, LTS Phils., Lux Marketing, Mary Kay, Nikken, Nu Skin, The Peak Marketing, Phoenix Educational Systems, Reliv, Sara Lee Direct Selling-Philippines, Sunrider, Symmetry, Tupperware, Waters Philippines, Felta Book Sales, Forever Living, and First Union Direct.

(For inquires call 864-2673 or email:dsaphils@mozcom.com.)



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Latest Merrill cuts show economists drag on costs

NEW YORK—Wall Street is axing one of its last remaining luxuries as it copes with the market downturn: economists.

Economists would seem vital to stock and bond prognostication, but analysts say these experts in the dismal science cost too much.

They garner high salaries without generating revenues or offering a quantifiable service like rating shares.

Merrill Lynch and Co. Inc. on Thursday was the latest firm to let a big-name forecaster go, firing chief economist Bruce Steinberg.

Two other high-ranking Merrill economists also left on Thursday: Matthew Higgins and David Horner.

More to follow

Other firms are expected to follow.

"Some of these firms are kind of heavy on the economics and strategy side," Reilly Tierney, an analyst at Fox-Pitt, Kelton, said.

"They are some of the smartest guys in the firm, and probably paid pretty well, but it's a total luxury."

A drought in bread-and-butter securities businesses like advising on stock offerings and mergers has forced Wall Street to cut costs everywhere.

Merrill has eliminated more than a quarter of its staff, or 18,600 jobs, since the start of last year and cut 1,200 positions in the third quarter.

Wall Street's also overhauling research departments amid a wide-ranging probe by regulators and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer into stock research abuses.

Spitzer and regulators have alleged firms issued overly bullish research reports to win investment banking deals.

The firms are negotiating ways to split research off from banking units.

Regional teams

Merrill also is overhauling its economics and strategy units to create regional macroeconomic teams, cutting costs as it goes, a source familiar with the matter said.

Merrill's chief US strategist, Richard Bernstein, likely would head the North American group, the source said.

Bernstein also has been bearish, the correct stance on markets recently, while Steinberg was bullish until recently.

The source said the restructurings had nothing to do with whether Steinberg was right or wrong, though one analyst said it was not surprising the bullish economist was the one to go.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that they cut a guy who's been associated with the bull market," Justin Hughes, an analyst at Jeffries & Co. said.

Merrill has used a heavier hand in tackling costs, though other firms are doing the same thing, analysts noted.

Merrill's Martin Fridson, considered the top high-yield bond strategist on Wall Street, left this week.

New strategy

Investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston also laid off nearly 20 percent of its research staff including chief market strategist Tom Galvin.

"If you're going to cut an area and not worry about the consequences of cutting it it's going to be strategy and economics," Tierney said.

"Those are the areas that don't really produce any revenues . . . The fact that these guys were wrong or whatever I don't think has anything to do with why they were fired." Merrill said it is not retreating from any markets.

"We remain committed to providing our clients around the world with comprehensive macro products," a spokesperson said.

"Our business plans for economic and strategy will be announced in the next few weeks." *Reuters*

Baker sells goodies without a single store

YOU want baked goodies delivered right at your doorstep? Call 861-8832. Chances are you'll get flavorful cakes and pastries.

Ever since Marietta Orias Francisco ventured into cake and pastry making there has never been an idle day for their "goodie" delivery vans.

Orders come from as far as Laguna and Cavite, Pampanga and Bulacan.

FRANCISCO

Seven years ago, Marietta never thought that her "hobby" would reach this proportion. She was working full-time in a construction firm and would always agree to be the "master baker" for family, company and even neighborhood celebrations.

"I just love baking," she says.

Time to spread wings

Sure, she relished every moment of her job—but after 12 years of being an executive secretary, she knew it was time to spread her wings and move on to something bigger.

"I thought it was time to do myself a favor by engaging in something I truly enjoy."

So, from her meager earnings she went on to fulfill her longtime dream.

It was a one-woman-show for some time. Her whole family stood by her, but all the work she had to do herself.

There were only four people working for her at that time, each with double jobs—the baker was also the decorator, the delivery man was also the "wrapper," and sometimes she was all these, aside from being the vendor and the "cleaner."

She was, and is, the heart and soul of Mater Cakes and Pastries.

Although she felt her products were good, she was wary of how tough competition was.

She knew Mater could not compete head-on with the larger companies.

They had the name, the outlets and the financial muscle.

Act of faith

So she did the next best thing—if the clients can't come to her bakeshop, then let Mater Cakes and Pastries go to them!

To Marietta, it was an act of faith. The first time she walked in a convenience store to offer to supply their pastry needs, she was really nervous. But she got the deal.

She has been able to expand her outlets through word of mouth.

She now has 25 people. Four delivery drivers set off to different directions every other day. Production is 24 hours a day!

This year, she is considering moving her bakeshop to another place. Since the very beginning, it has always been "bakery-cum-bahay."

It was difficult but the setup was also convenient. She was able to take care of her business and her growing kids. But the bakeshop and the kids have both grown.

"I guess, it's time to separate them now." Marita intones.

Now that she has more time, Marietta intends to experiment. She is thinking of introducing new cake and pastry variants.

No substitutes

Mater cakes and pastries do have the regular bakery stuff—cup cakes, rolls, bread and some novelties such as Taisan and Japanese Crown.

But what really sets Mater cakes and pastries apart is the fact that they never use "substitutes."

So you not only taste real egg on egg pies, but you are also in for a very healthy treat.

Although her business has been growing, Marietta says prices of ingredients have been on the rise.

But she hopes that she will be able to overcome any adverse developments.

"It is seldom that we find ourselves enjoying and earning at the same time, and I thank God for that."

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I. Entrepreneurship: Building Financial and Personal Freedom for the Filipino Families
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  Dr. Michael Alba, Dean - DLSU College of Business and Economics
- Industry Overview: What is it, How it works?
  Louie Migne, Senior Public Relations Manager, Avon Cosmetics
- Why Direct Sales or Network Marketing is the Better Choice in Entrepreneurship
  Malu Dy Buncio, General Manager, Avon Cosmetics
- Choosing the Right Company and Products
  Bernie Mercado, General Manager, Mary Kay Philippines, Inc.
- Network Marketing is Not Pyramiding
  Josiah Go, President and General Manager, Waters Philippines

Day 2

II. Starting Your Distributor Business: A Self-Assessment
- Vision, Mission, Goals and Values
  Emil Quinto, Managing Director, Nikken Philippines
- Determining Your Personal Style
  Ricky Sy, General Manager, Sara Lee Direct Selling
- Tools for Being Organized
  Domingo Garcia, Independent Business Manager, Sara Lee Direct Selling

III. Growing Your Distributor Business: Continuous Business and Relationship Building Efforts
- Recruiting Skills
  Josie Medina, Executive Field VP, Symmetry Philippines
- Selling Skills
  Aurora Pijuan, Independent Distributor, Nikken Philippines

Day 3

- People Skills
  Dr. Lakangiting Garcia, Director - DLSU Institute for Faculty Development
- Coaching Skills
  Dr. Blessilda Raposa, Mathematics Faculty, DLSU College of Sciences

IV. Sustaining Your Distributorship Business Volume: Lessons From Direct Selling Warriors
- Leadership Skills
  Sol Peña, Franchise Manager Avon Cosmetics
  Marivic Go, Distributor, Tupperware Philippines
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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Timeless Filipino values highlighted in 2002 Araw Values roving exhibit

PHOTOS BY EGAY MONTANA

THE COUNTRY'S advertising industry puts the spotlight once again on timeless Filipino values as the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard) launches the 3rd Araw Values Awards in recognition of advertising that espouses the most endearing, basic and distinct Pinoy ideals.

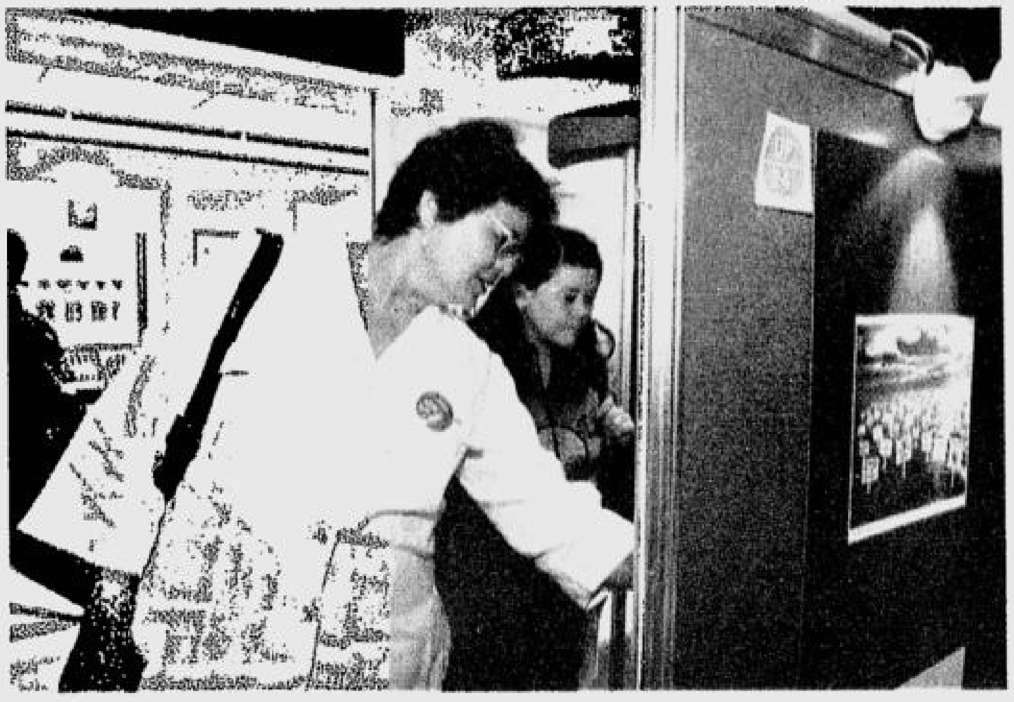
The Araw Values Award is one of the two most coveted industry awards given alternately each year to the finest pieces of advertisements that have been printed or broadcast on radio or television. The other one is the Araw Creative Awards.

The awards program picks winners based on the criteria of "cornerstone values" such as love of God and respect for religious beliefs, commitment to truth, honesty and justice, love of country and respect for national customs and traditions, reverence for family unity and inviolability of marriage, respect and care for human life and dignity and the rights of all, respect for law and authority and the promotion of self-discipline, and concern for the preservation of the environment. An entry has to first identify which of the seven cornerstone values it is promoting so it can compete with the other entries in that particular category.

According to Alvin Manacsa, Araw Values Awards PR and advertising committee chair, the finalists for the TV, branded and unbranded print ads will go on a road show this year. "For the first time in Araw's history, we will bring the Araw Values Exhibit to the malls in key cities to allow the public to choose the winner in the People's Choice Award." The first stopover took place from Nov. 4 to 6 at the Ayala Center in Makati. From Nov 8 to 10, the roving exhibit was at SM Megamall, and will move to Shangri-La Plaza Mall Nov. 12 to 13. The show will go down south to Cebu at the SM Megatrade Hall from Nov. 15 to 16 and at the Ayala Center Nov. 17 and 18, to SM City Davao from Nov. 20 to 21 and Baguio from Nov. 28 to 29. At these venues, the public is invited to cast their votes for their favorite ad upon presentation of a valid ID or via text messaging by just sending in their votes to 2366 (for details, watch out for the announcement on the ABS-CBN channel starting Nov. 17). The entry that garners the most number of votes will win the People's Choice Award.

Another addition to this year's awards is the Kababaihan Award which will be given by the National Commission on Filipino Women to an advertising material that shows a keen respect for the rights of the Filipino woman.

Winners will be proclaimed on Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. For ticket inquiries, call Adboard at 818-6158, 818-6113. This project is supported by the Rotary Club of Makati West.


AN INTERESTING piece deserves a closer look.

ABRERA, Romualdez, and Lucas view the exhibits.

FROM LEFT, Michael Mallari, president, Outdoor Advertising, Sandy Prieto–Romualdez, president, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Venus Navalta, managing director, Universal McCann–Erickson, Emily A. Abrera, chair, McCann-Erickson Philippines, Dodie Lucas, chair, 2002 Araw Values Awards, Susan Dimacali, chair, Adboard, Jun Alcantara, director, Adboard, and Alvin R. Manacsa, chair, Advertising Suppliers Association (Asap) cut the ceremonial ribbon marking the opening of Adboard Araw Values Awards Roadshow Exhibit at the Ayala Mall upper level.

MISS EARTH VISITS CLUB MANILA EAST

Club Manila East welcomed the lovely candidates of Miss Earth 2002 Oct 14. With them are Reu M. Dellota, VP for marketing and operations (seated, center), and Judy C. Dellota, VP for finance and administration (standing, center).

Ateneo launches course for banks, quasi-banks

A SPECIALIZED course will be formally launched by the Ateneo-BAP Institute of Banking (Abib) Nov. 15, 1 p.m. at the Ateneo Rockwell Auditorium. Entitled, "Corporate Governance for Banks and Quasi-Banks," the course is in response to the call by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for local financial institutions to achieve global competitiveness based on the tenets of fairness, accountability and transparency.

According to Tomas T. de Leon, assistant program director of Abib, the course is intended to uplift the level of excellence and service in the banking sector by providing a series of educational modules on good governance for top management down to the operating levels, in order to ensure that the bank or quasi-bank is governed in a manner consistent with the principles and practices of a free and moral society, and within the context of a competitive market economy. Being a major pillar of the economy and since any bank closure or perception of instability in the banking system adversely affects the business sector as well as the social and political environment, an immediate goal, therefore, should be to build stronger foundations in order to survive future crises and achieve world-class competitiveness. Unique features of the course are its core faculty of bank professionals, best practice examples and cases, tried-and-tested risk management models, and its ability to be customized to suit the needs of individual banks or quasi-banks which may want a course geared to meet their unique culture, business model and practices.

Among the special guests invited to the launching ceremonies are House Speaker Jose De Venecia, whose effective governance principles and style of leadership has enabled the House of Representatives to deliver the needed legislation to improve the economic and social conditions in the country, Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette, who will represent the Canadian model of governance in banking, and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, the leading advocate of governance in the banking sector. Officers of banks and quasi-banks (finance companies, investment houses, savings and loan cooperatives) are invited to attend the ceremonies.

Participation is free, but reservations are required due to limited seating. Call 830-2050, or e-mail cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu.

ProductFILES

Staying in style in the rain

ARROW, the internationally renowned men's fashion brand, introduces the new jacket collection: cotton woven and nylon water repellant. The cotton-woven jacket comes in black, gray, beige, olive, and navy blue. The nylon jacket comes in black, navy blue, royal blue, and red. Using imported European fabric, these stylish jackets are just what you need to look sharp even in the rain. Arrow jackets are available at the Podium, SM City Manila, SM City North Edsa Annex, SM Southmall, SM City Pampanga Annex and Robinson's Place Metro East.

'After Eden' book launch

ADARNA House, the leading publisher of popular and award-winning books for children and young adults, together with Powerbooks and National Book Store, bring to you the book launching of "After Eden", a graphic novel by two-time National Book Award winner Arnold Arre. From 3 to 5 p.m. of the following dates, get the chance to meet the author. Posters will also be given to lucky guests. Launch dates are on Nov. 10 at the National Book Store, SM Megamall, on Nov. 17 at NBS in SM City North Edsa, and on Nov. 24 at the NBS Cubao (Super branch). Launches will also be held at the Powerbooks of SM Megamall on Nov. 23 and at the Powerbooks in Glorietta on Nov. 30.

BITS Clips

Health fair in Makati

HEALTH Food and Herb Products Inc. is holding its Health Food Fair at the Park Square I, Activity Area, Ayala Center, Makati City, daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Nov. 14. Several activities have been lined up, such as product samplings, healing sessions, health consultations, free body fat analysis, iridology check-up, and blind masseur sessions. The public may also avail itself of big discounts on all best natural products from Health Food and Health Products Inc. For more information, call 894-2386/87 or 892-4026.

Career fair for nurses

A CAREER Fair for nurses will be conducted by the National Nephrology Associates (USA) on Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Balitaw Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and at Cebu City at the Waterfron Drive, Off Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City. No agency fees will be collected. The only requirement is that you should be a registered nurse to attend the orientation program on the comprehensive benefit package, such as 10 weeks of paid training, competitive salary structure, and the opportunity for advancement. Immigration expenses, airfare to the United States will be paid by the NNA and temporary housing for 90 days will be provided until permanent housing is established. Employment application will be completed at the career fair and interviews will be scheduled. Experience on dialysis, critical care or medical/surgical will be given preference. Bring your resume, and if CGFNS, TOEFL or TSE has been completed, bring copies. NNA clinics are located in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Ohio. Those who cannot attend can call its representative in the Philippines Mardel International Management & Services Inc. at 842-7744 to 46, 851-9015, or 852-6248 to schedule an interview. Free gifts await those who attend.

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ISLAND COVE SPONSORS 2ND DM FORUM

Showing that it is attracting a wide array of participants, Island Cove, the noted resort and leisure park, is sponsoring the 2nd Philippine Direct Marketing Forum on Nov. 13 and 14 at the Shangrila Hotel, Makati City. Shown are Island Cove's marketing communications manager Rey Arcedera, Ardy Roberto, chair and founder, DM Forum, Lui Mauban, DM Forum project director, and Evelyn Esquilona, senior corporate sales associate. DM Forum is one of the country's major marketing events. Among the topics the 2nd DM Forum will highlight are best practices in customer relationship management, hierarchy from prospect to customer to advocate, interactive marketing, best practices in short message services or text/wireless marketing, Internet marketing, consumer insighting and intelligence, the power of research to create a strong direct marketing strategy, the myths of loyalty programs, direct mailing, what's new and what works, the challenges of doing direct marketing in the Philippines, and the creative interactive explosion in direct marketing. For inquiries, call 813-2732 or 813-2703, log on to www.dmforum.net, e-mail dmforum@edsamail.com.ph, or call 0916-5884877.

MOVEMENTS

New Media Direction head

LEADING industry practitioner Hermie de Leon has been appointed as managing director of Media Direction Philippines, the independent media brand of BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

Although she was with BBDO Guerrero Ortega at its inception in 1998, she left the agency earlier this year after being offered the post of managing director at Bates 141 Philipines. Prior to that she worked in both McCann Erickson and Ogilvy, the latter as head of Media.

Media Direction Philippines is already one of the leading media buying points in the country since many large corporate advertisers still prefer to negotiate directly with media suppliers.

Jos Ortega, the MD of BBDO Guerrero Ortega said, "We are delighted to have Hermie back with us. With her on board we anticipate further gains in our media businesses and additional added value services for our clients."

Philam Plans has new CEO

JOSE L. Cuisia Jr., chair of the Board of Philam Plans Inc., announced the appointment of Jesus G. Hofileña as president and CEO of the company.

Prior to his appointment, Hofileña held the position of EVP & chief marketing officer of Philam Life where he showed his ability to achieve business objectives and contributed significantly to the success of the company.

He is now expected to provide the leadership necessary to bring Philam Plans to even greater heights. He will, however, continue to serve as Philam Group's chief marketing officer and chair of the Marketing Council. He will carry on with his active involvement and spearheading of various marketing initiatives and projects of the Philam Group of Companies. Hofileña is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, summa cum laude. He is also a Fellow of the Life Management Institute (FLMI) and a Limra Leadership Institute Fellow (LLIF).

Roxas Holdings bares new appointment

ROXAS Holdings Inc. announced the appointment of lawyer Florencio M. Mamauag Jr. as vice president for Legal and Compliance Office of the publicly listed company. The elevation of Mamauag, who was promoted from assistant vice president and legal counsel, is in line with the reorganization program of RHI (formerly Central Azucarera Don Pedro), one of the country's largest sugar manufacturers, which aims to transform itself from a sugar manufacturer to a diversified holding and investment company. Mamauag retains his current position as the assistant corporate secretary of RHI and its subsidiary, Central Azucarera de la Carlota (CAC).

A lawyer and certified public accountant, he obtained his bachelor of laws degree at the San Beda College of Law and placed 16th in the 1988 Philippine bar examinations. He likewise finished his accounting degree in the same school.

He has served in various capacities related to his areas of expertise in the Elizalde Group of Companies, CAC, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, the Securities and Exchange Commission and San Beda College before joining RHI in 1996.

Business called on to play...

From page C8

communication with the legislature," he adds.

The Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy helps facilitate this communication between business and legislature through its training and consultancy programs on the key areas of democracy, leadership, citizenship and governance.

He says business groups could even take the lead and draft certain bills that they feel should be passed, or recommend specific amendments to existing laws.

"Business should know that it is hard to amend laws once they are passed so it would be better if they stepped in early in the game," he says.

De Vera says some business groups have shied away from dealing with Congress because of their mistrust of politicians.

"Some go to the extreme and think that nothing good comes out of Congress but this distrust is misplaced because there are some politicians that are actually out to do good. Both sides should help each other come out with better laws," he says.

US execs lie about resumé showing hiring complacency

From page C8

professional accomplishments.

"We don't present anyone to a client without verifying the credentials," he said.

Lawyers said it is possible that search firms could be held liable for these embarrassments, but only if their contracts explicitly state they will vet the candidates.

If search firms "missed a fake credential, I think they would be liable, but only for the damages that are foreseeable, like replacing the person, maybe," said Warren Dennis, a senior partner with New York law firm Proskauer Rose.

Ultimately, Turecek said, client companies are responsible.

"The onus is on the companies. The companies should do pre-employment screening or background checking," he said.

Lenient punishment

Meg Graham, a Bausch & Lomb spokesperson, said she did not know if a search firm was involved in Zarrella's hiring when he came to the company in 1985, or when he returned in 2001 after a stint at General Motors Corp. She declined to comment on the company's procedures for vetting candidates.

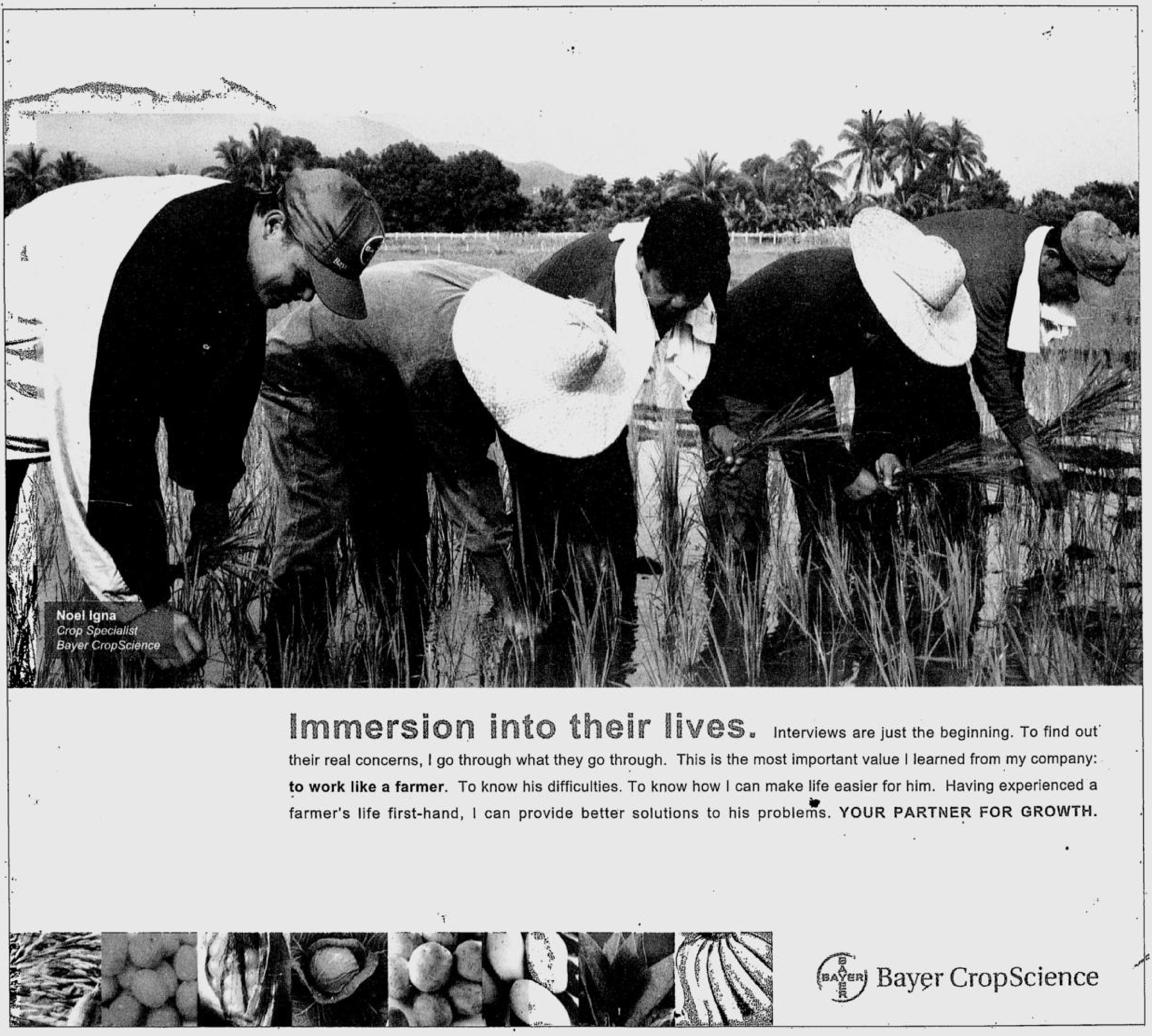
Veritas spokesperson Marlena Fernandez said Lonchar came to the company after it acquired his former employer, OpenVision, in 1997, rather than as a direct hire. And Bryan Mitchell was a founder of MCG Capital, so his background was not checked, spokesperson Sherry Edwards said.

Both Bausch & Lomb and MCG were relatively lenient with their errant chiefs, choosing to keep them on but denying them current-year bonuses. MCG's Mitchell also forfeited his 2001 bonus, and stepped down as chair of the company.

Zarrella now misses out on a bonus that could have topped $1.1 million, but he keeps his $1.1 million salary, along with stock options and other perks.

Ethics experts say those sanctions could be adequate, especially combined with the shame and embarrassment those executives are likely suffering.

"Most people are worthy of second and third chances," said Dov Seidman, CEO of LRN, a Los Angeles firm that provides legal and ethics training. "At the same time, you can't ignore ethical missteps." *Reuters*



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BUSINESS*Monday*

Business called on to play role of lawmaker

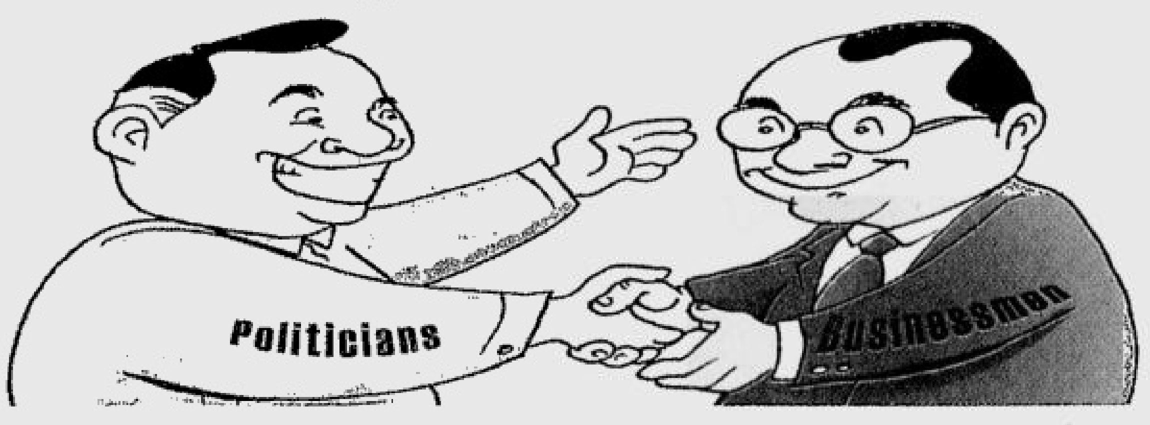
By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANY business groups have long criticized the country's legislature for supposedly passing laws that hurt, rather than improve, the Philippines' chances of staging a strong and sustained economic recovery.

The fault can be traced to the same business groups, however, because they did not directly participate in the discussions and numerous hearings conducted in both Houses of Congress about economic bills that affect their operations.

J. Prospero E. De Vera III, executive director of the Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, tells Business Monday that there is no strong link between business and the legislature, thus, leading to the perception that the business sector gets its inputs included in landmark laws through under-the-table negotiations.

"Our system here is not the same as in the United States where lobbying is considered a profession. Professional lobby groups are respected and they are transparent in pushing for the interests of certain groups or stakeholders," De Vera explains.



Due to the lack of transparent and hard-and-fast rules governing lobbying efforts, De Vera says there is no real incentive for business groups or corporations to forge strong links with the legislature.

De Vera, however, stresses that business should still get itself involved in the discussions, particularly before a bill is passed into law.

"Businesses so far usually jump into the discussions only when the crisis is already present, or once they find out that the rules passed would have an adverse effect on their business. All these could be avoided if only business would get itself involved," De Vera says.

De Vera adds that the involvement of business groups, particularly in the discussions of complicated economic bills, would ensure that the final law would eventually lead to economic growth.

"The mere involvement of business would improve the final bill and they stand to benefit from their participation in the democratic process. Business then should conduct regular

BUSINESS/ C7

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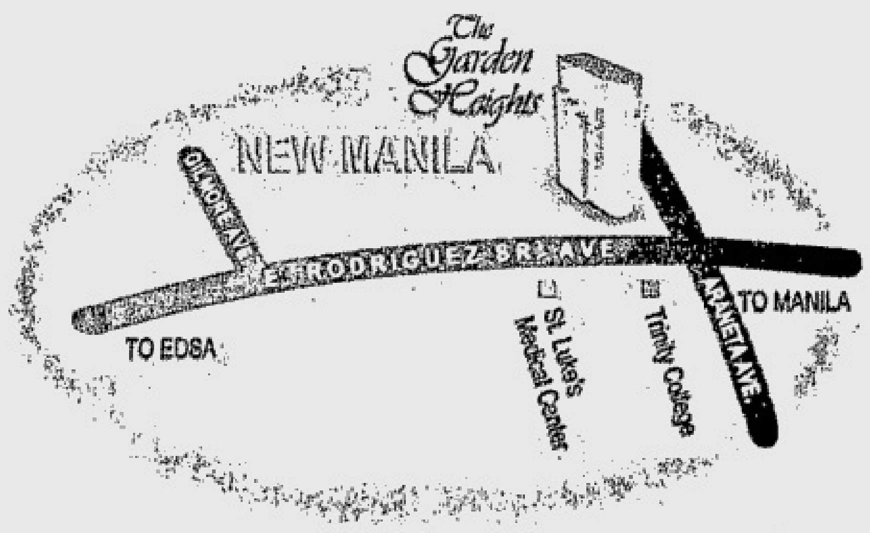

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US execs lie about resumé showing hiring complacency

NEW YORK—Just when the stream of scandals about companies misleading investors seems to have ebbed, recent revelations of resumé padding point to another area where basic standards of corporate oversight have failed.

In the last month, top executives at three companies have been disciplined for fabricating university degrees. The disclosures have exposed the companies to embarrassment and stock plunges, and have punctured their credibility.

The disclosures reveal one more Achilles heel of American business, said Peter Turecek, who heads the consulting services group at corporate investigations firm Kroll Inc.

"Resumé fraud is not new," he said. "Companies wanting to check it, or having the political will to check it, is something that has to change."

False information

He said nearly 25 percent of all background checks he's done have revealed false information.

Companies are complacent, Turecek said. They assume that if a job candidate has been in an industry for 20 years, some other company down the line must have checked out the person's resumé. "In reality, that might not have happened," he said.

Then there's the old boys' network. Many executives come to companies through word of mouth, Turecek said. Maybe a director recommends an old friend, or an executive wants to bring in a trusted deputy from a previous job. Human resources departments are reluctant to interfere with those relationships, or risk offending superiors by insisting on a background check.

"That should change as more directors realize that they can be embarrassed as well if something happens to the company," Turecek added.

Price to pay

He said that many companies skimp on these checks. But "a little bit of money spent now can save a world of headaches" later on, he said, adding that a thorough background check costs about $25,000.

Compared with offenses like securities fraud, money laundering and obstruction of justice—all crimes US executives have recently been indicted for—padding a resumé may seem like small potatoes.

But fudged resumés can still ruin careers, embarrass companies and lead investors to ask: Who's minding the store?

Last month, Veritas Software Corp. fired chief financial officer Kenneth Lonchar after discovering he did not have an MBA from Stanford Business School, as he'd claimed. Veritas shares fell 19 percent on the day of the announcement.

A few weeks later, eye-care product maker Bausch & Lomb Inc. said its chief executive, Ronald Zarrella, did not have a graduate degree in business, as his company biography once claimed. He'll stay with the company, but without his 2002 bonus.

Last week, MCG Capital Corp. disclosed founder and CEO Bryan Mitchell's fib that he graduated from Syracuse University. MCG's stock fell 37 percent that day.

Headhunters

Some companies retain headhunters for high-level searches, but even these seasoned firms sometimes miss important facts.

Two leading placement firms—Korn/Ferry International and Spencer Stuart—failed to uncover evidence that Al Dunlap, a former Sunbeam CEO, had been fired at previous jobs. Dunlap had left those jobs off his resumé.

Kevin Connelly, the head of Spencer Stuart's North American operations, acknowledged that human errors do occur. But he said his firm's first step, when asked to do background checks, is to verify academic and

US/ C7

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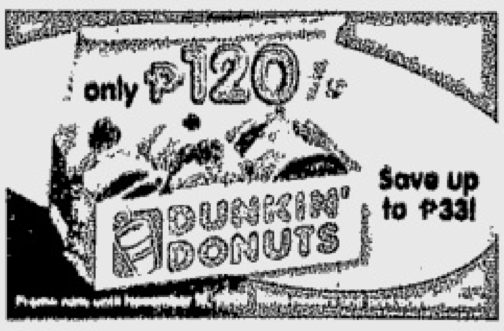

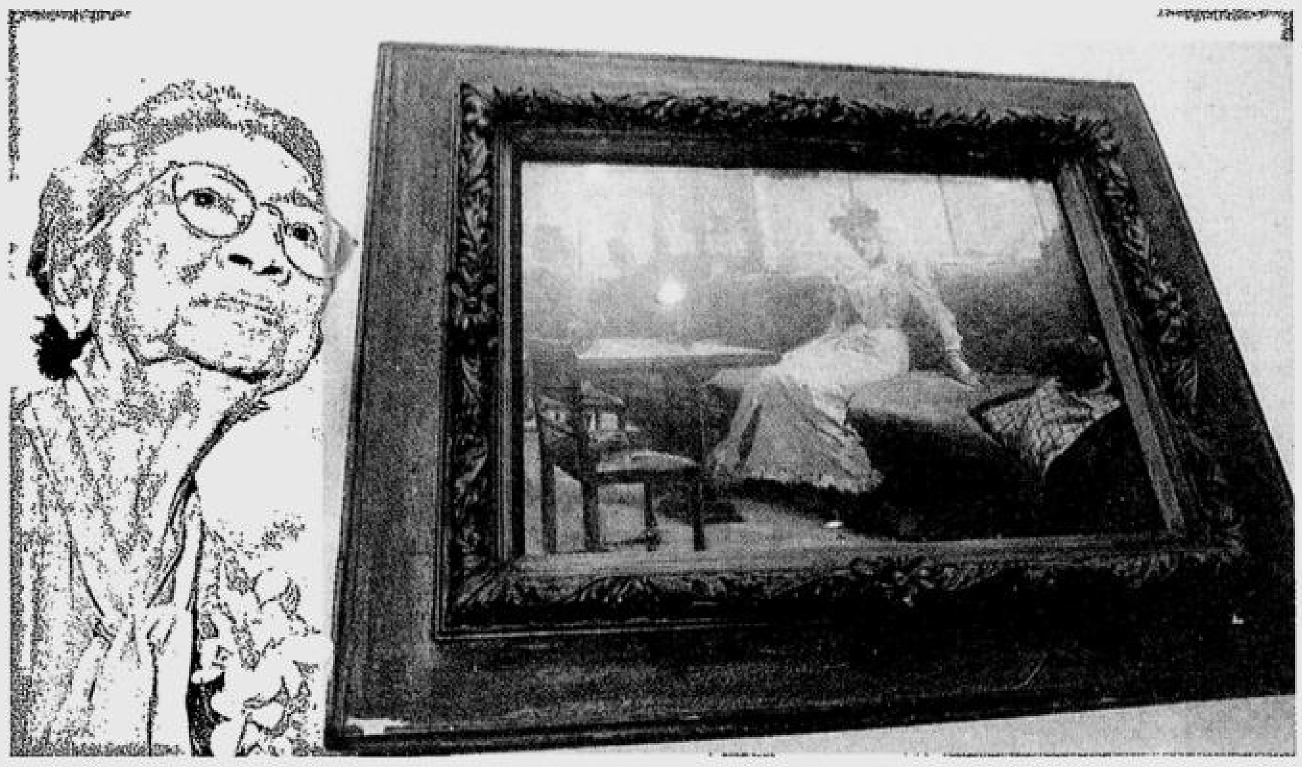

Paddle in hand, Winston Garcia and the GSIS raise the stakes—and international regard—for Philippine art

MERCEDES Nakpil Zialcita is reunited with Juan Luna's painting in the GSIS Museum.

PHOTOS: ERIK ARAZAS

GSIS to the rescue

By Lito B. Zulueta

QUICK decision-making and unbearable tension characterized the rescue of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" in the Christie's auction of Southeast Asian art last Oct. 24 in Hong Kong.

Winston Garcia, the president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), nervously held paddle No. 16 as the bidding broke the P14 million barrier, the most realistic estimate of the limits that the auction would take for the controversial painting. But with no sign that the struggle was abating, Garcia could only pray that he could deliver the goods and restore the painting to Philippine hands.

Beside Garcia was Eric Zerrudo, curator of the GSIS Museum, and other GSIS officials. For every challenge, Garcia would confer with Zerrudo and the other advisers to determine if the GSIS could still carry on. They only had 30 seconds to do so, or else it would be goodbye to "Parisian Life." Somehow, Garcia found himself frantically raising his paddle to signal that GSIS was very much in the thick of the fight.

But those blasted phone calls kept coming, upping the price every time and forcing the GSIS bigwigs to brace themselves for the long haul and a heart attack. The atmosphere at this time was extremely tense, much like a hotly contested tennis fight, with the GSIS frantically hitting with its racket (or paddle) on the one side, and the phone-ins answering back on the other.

And what volleys they were, especially since the bidding had gone far beyond the original estimate of $256,400. Each volley was worth tens of thousands—in American dollars!

Overwhelming odds

The GSIS was up against overwhelming odds. Two days before the auction,

GSIS/p.D2

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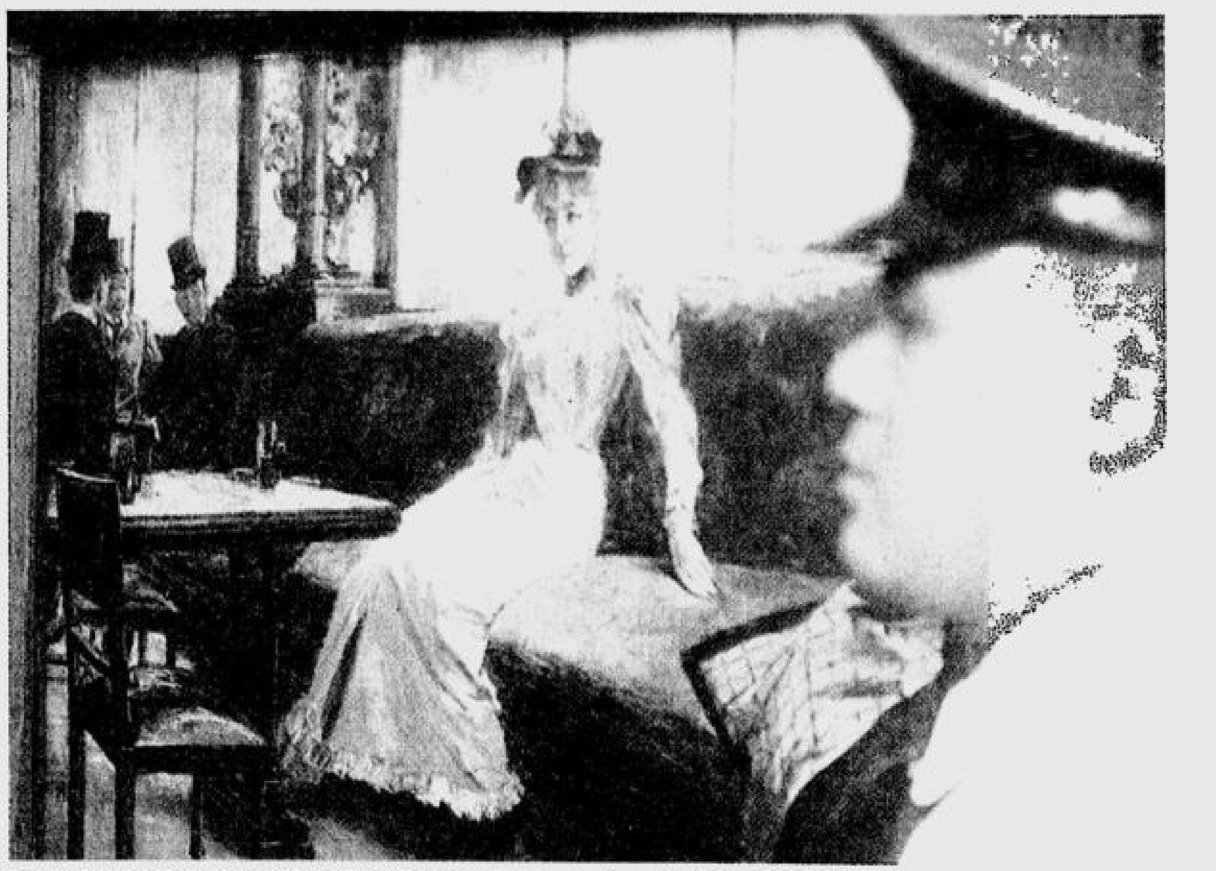
GSIS to the rescue

From page D1



LUNA'S priceless "Parisian Life" is now the crown jewel of the GSIS Collection.

when the works were exhibited, Zerrudo said he spotted a number of Filipinos checking the wares, including Butch Campos of Unilab, Paulino Que (who has a large collection of Ang Kiukok, whose works have started to be auctioned off by Sotheby's and Christie's), and Fernando Zobel de Ayala. That would not have mattered, really, considering their participation would lessen the odds that the Luna would go to a non-Filipino. But Zerrudo said it was characteristic of the museums of Singapore, Fukuoka and Paris, to join the auction and snap up Filipino works to beef up their collections.

In fact, toward the end, when Garcia appeared to have the Luna in the GSIS basket, an unidentified bidder rang one of the telephones in the hall and made a bid. There were furious exchanges after that, and Zerrudo knew the opponent was no ordinary bidder.

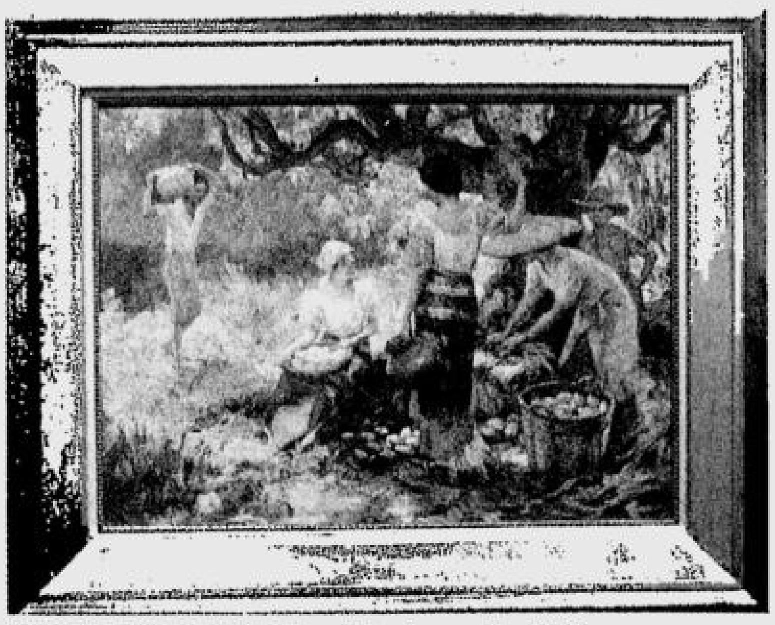
"The bidding was beyond the reach of a Filipino," he said.

But in the end, only the determined stood with the paddle waving, still raring for a fight. The auction master, weary from the intense bidding, declared "Parisian Life" sold for $855,640—to the GSIS!

The room broke into wild applause, and news photographers descended on the GSIS group. Three layers of reporters swarmed on the delegation. They had been dispatched by their news organizations exactly to cover the bidding for the Luna. The struggle for the Luna was the toast of the Asian media.

Garcia was at the top of the world. "This piece will be our flagship [for the GSIS museum]," he told reporters.

But nothing prepared him for the shower of gratitude poured on him. A Filipino couple approached Garcia, and their words melted his heart. "Thank you for bringing home our Luna," they said.



"UNDER THE MANGO Tree," by Amorsolo, 1935

Not so simple

"Bringing home the Luna" was not as simple as it sounded. The controversy erupted less than two weeks before the auction. In the run-up to the bidding, Garcia hastily met the GSIS board to get the blessing for the campaign. Buying the work was seen as a good business move.

"At this time when the stock market is down and interest rates are very low... buying the painting is a wise investment," Garcia said.

Moreover, GSIS remains solvent. Its net income rose by 42 percent, to P21.75 billion from P15.31 billion, in the previous quarter. It expects to post a net income of P30 billion this year, from P25.8 billion last year. In fact, because of the lack of investment opportunities, the GSIS has increased its loans to members, the better for the pension fund to earn between 12 percent and 14 percent.

Because of the good fiscal position of GSIS, it has an excess liquidity of P20 billion.

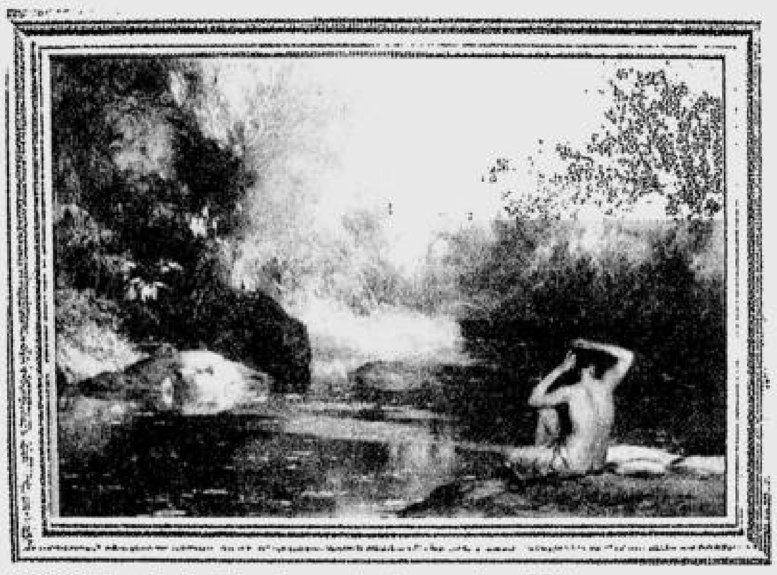
GSIS president Winston Garcia

"Every year we lose this in cash," Garcia said. "We have to transform it into foreign currency."

Investing the money would remove it from the system where it fuels inflation, GSIS officials said.

"We lose if we don't invest to higher-yield investments," Garcia explained. "We would rather invest it in art that does not depreciate."

Buying the Luna would also drum up publicity for the GSIS Collection and the GSIS Museum. The collection now numbers 150 artworks, and the museum has showcased them in varying themes and exposures. Because of the controversy revolving around Luna's work, the painting is now considered the "crown jewel" of the collection, Zerrudo said.



"BABAE sa Batis," by Fernando Amorsolo, 1921

Within days after the spectacular auction, Garcia said museum attendance has skyrocketed, with busloads of schoolchildren coming to the museum daily.

"We are getting requests for tours; the phones never stop ringing," Garcia said. "The painting has become the best publicity for the museum—and the GSIS."

Publicity for Filipino art

The furious bidding has also become the best international publicity for Filipino art.

Prior to *l'affaire Luna*, works by Filipino old and modern masters (Amorsolo, Manansala, Magsaysay-Ho, Botong Francisco) had been among the biggest sellers in Christie's and Sotheby's. But the Oct. 27 bidding showed once and for all that collectors, Filipino and non-Filipino, would fight to the death for a solid Filipino work of art.

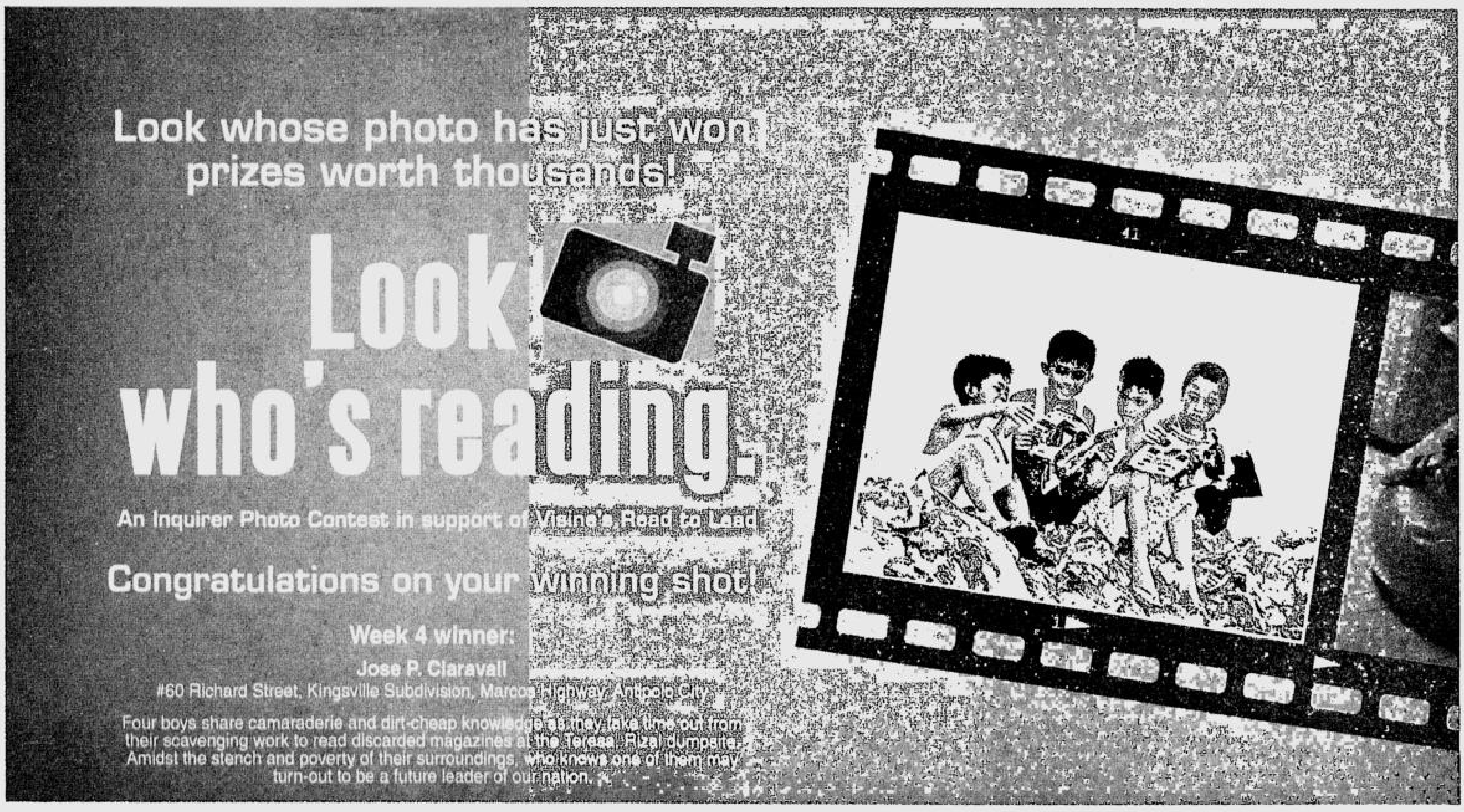
It's a fight that the GSIS is not exactly raring to wage again. The tension and the drama, according to Zerrudo, were just too much.

On the day they took the Luna to the airport for shipment to the Philippines, the GSIS group found out it had lost the gate pass.

"This is just too much!" Zerrudo exclaimed. "Parisian Life" was too much trouble. "I had to remind everyone to stay calm, not to panic."

Nowadays, the GSIS is brimming with enthusiasm. The storm is over. With masochistic glee, Garcia said he even brought home the paddle.

So, do we declare now paddle No. 16 a national treasure?



Look whose photo has just won prizes worth thousands!
Look who's reading.
An Inquirer Photo Contest in support of Visine's Read to Lead
Congratulations on your winning shot!

Week 4 winner:
Jose P. Claravall
#60 Richard Street, Kingsville Subdivision, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City

Four boys share camaraderie and dirt-cheap knowledge as they take time out from their scavenging work to read discarded magazines at the Teresa, Rizal dumpsite. Amidst the stench and poverty of their surroundings, who knows one of them may turn-out to be a future leader of our nation.

Thousands' worth of gift packs...gift certificates...and cash prizes for your winning photo!

WEEKLY PRIZES
- P3,000 worth of Gift Certificates from National Book Store • Visine Eye Drops gift packs from Pfizer • Gift Pack from Philippine Daily Inquirer

GRAND PRIZES
1st Prize: P15,000 in cash and gift certificates* • 2nd Prize: P10,000 in cash and gift certificates* • 3rd Prize: P5,000 in cash and gift certificates*
1 year supply of selected Pfizer products • 1 year subscription of Philippine Daily Inquirer

* Half in cash and half in Gift Certificates from National Book Store

Contest Mechanics:

1. This photo contest is open only to amateur photographers.
2. Submit a photo in 5R size if print, or 300 dpi if digital (in disk), featuring a person or a group of people reading books, magazines and newspapers in unusual poses, situations or places. Or photos that best capture the theme: "Reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained and can be done by anyone, anywhere and anytime."
3. Photos must be accompanied by a short caption of not more than 50 words describing the scene depicted in the photo. Entries should also have the sender's name, age, address, telephone number and school/office.
4. One winner will be chosen weekly from October 18 to December 16 and will have their photos featured in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Lifestyle section.
5. All 10 weekly winners (1 winner per week for 10 weeks) qualify for the grand draw. First, second and third prizewinners will be announced and photos will be published again on the last week of the promo on December 23, 2002.
6. Criteria:
   - Creativity
   - Originality/Uniqueness of Photo
   - Adherence to the Promo Objective
7. Mail entries to:
   "Look Who's Reading" Contest
   c/o Corporate Relations Office
   Philippine Daily Inquirer
   Chino Roces Avenue
   Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.
   Makati City
8. Only entries received from October 7 to December 10, 2002 will be included in the weekly contest. Winners can only win once in the weekly contest.
9. Only one photo per entry will be accepted. Duplicate entries will be treated as one entry and will be attributed to the first sender.
10. Photos must be original and not manipulated. Pictures submitted in print should ideally be sent in with negatives. Photographer must have obtained the consent to photograph subjects, venues and other details in photo. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Visine (Pfizer) and National Book Store will not be liable for any legal or civil complaint/suit that may arise from unauthorized publishing of photos submitted.
11. Organizers reserve the right to determine the validity of entries submitted. All entries received become the property of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Contest period: October 7 to December 16, 2002

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Philippine Daily Inquirer
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In cooperation with
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Despite the junkets, we remain parochial

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

SOME people just refuse to get it. Despite the column inches (more like yards, really) that the likes of Bambi Harper, Toti Villalon, Ambeth Ocampo have used up all these years trying to explain that there's such a thing as culture treasures, historical landmarks, heritage and national patrimony, people still insist on lumping a Juan Luna with, say, an SUV or a condo.

They refuse to understand that culture heritage—no matter the peso value forcibly attached to it—doesn't fall under the category of money placements and that its worth is not as easily quantifiable as country club shares.

Reading the various reactions to the GSIS purchase of the Juan Luna leaves you sick at breakfast, not only because they smack of political grandstanding, but because they show how damaged our psyche already is. It's not only our institutions that have been corrupted, irreversibly, it seems, but also our sense of identity as a people.

We are destroying—stealing and selling, specifically—the links to our past, are recklessly in denial of our present, and feel hopeless about our future. We simply don't care anymore about the good things we have created or done through the centuries—be it an artwork or architecture. We are missing our pride of self.

Professional junketeers

And yet a sizeable number of our population consists of world travelers and professional junketeers. They will give an arm and a leg to have their snapshots taken before Big Ben, the Louvre, the Statue of Liberty, or nearer, the temples of Bangkok. Recently a good number have been to the Ho Chi Minh residence in Vietnam or the Angkor Wat in Cambodia—the current hip destinations.

Each time, they come home envious of what they've seen, and for good reason.

Take Vietnam. Last Thursday at the launch of "Bencab," the coffeetable book, we ran into culture advocates who'd just come from Vietnam and noted how this war-torn country is attracting not just tourists but high-end tourists, the jaded New Yorkers among them, to whom Vietnam is exotic history. They are lured by its extant French architecture, for instance.

And yet, our friend said, from Intramuros to Ilocos and Bohol, we have architecture that is centuries older than that, if centuries-old architecture is the object of desire of Westerners. Problem is, John said, our tourism packaging doesn't go beyond the smiles of our women.

Vietnam, no matter that it has been derailed by decades of war, knows how or cares to cash in on its recent war history and the remnants of it. (Of course, Hanoi was hardly destroyed.)

If Vietnam is too exotic for us to take on, there's Singapore.

Singapore has left no stone unturned in packaging its culture, restoring its shophouses just to prove it has architecture heritage, filling its museum with artworks from neighboring countries, especially the Philippines, and recreating its "Old World" sections. Interestingly, by Singapore standards, a 30-year-old building is already an architecture landmark to be preserved or restored.

In a briefing by Singapore tourism body a few years ago, I remember distinctly what they said was the rationale behind the thrust: Mainly, they aimed to draw in investments and make Singapore a world finance capital, which they could do if they made their state an attractive place for the "expats" to live in.

Therefore, the lush greenery amid the concrete jungle, the buffet of entertainment and leisure attractions, the ambiance of culture and "Old World" charm form the package called "quality of life" which should entice the plastic-bearing foreigners. At that time Singapore was in a frenzy restoring its shophouses and old districts, giving them the patina of age.

(Guess who was with our NCCA team then, attentively listening and taking down notes? The Manila mayor who, shortly after, had the Jai-alai Building torn down.)

Singapore has the money, we don't. But money begets money, as they say. Unlike us, countries like Singapore have trailed the path taken by old First World countries—it's learning how to invest in its culture and arts strategically and is expecting bottom-line returns from it.

If the only way we could value our culture and heritage is in terms of pesos/dollars, then so be it; we can resort to crass accounting.

Culture tourism

Like Europe and First World countries it's about time we put culture tourism in place, primarily because we have a wealth of offering.

In the '90s, the Central Bank ancient gold jewelry exhibit brought to Paris, with the galleon finds, made quite an impression among the French; like, how could these natives, heretofore known to live in trees, have produced such exquisite pre-colonial craftsmanship?

We have a great deal to show the world—from the landscape to architecture, the arts, even down to the Marcos vanity loot. Expectedly there's a good number of foreign voyeurs who remain curious about Imelda's shoe and jewelry collections.

We shouldn't throw away, pilfer or "fence" these vestiges of the recent past; they can still form part of a museum, if only to show the young generations the grand inclinations of a regime that led us to where we are now. Curiosities and lessons from the past.

> If government bodies such as GSIS really want to promote culture and the arts, they could give endowments to the right culture bodies which must be better qualified to harness such resources

But then it'll take more than money to pursue heritage conservation and culture tourism. And we have just about given up on government to take the lead—like, how many Jimmy Layas do you have out there? (By the way, the missing Sto. Niño didn't belong to the Central Bank Collection; it was Laya's. He donated it to the National Museum in 1982.)

It takes vision, strategy, political will to do all this. Most important, it takes a genuine love and knowledge of our culture.

Perhaps this is why GSIS drew the flak for its Luna acquisition. The intention may have been laudable but it paid through the nose to save that piece; talk has it that the painting was going for only P10 million before the painting landed in the news.

This brings us to a good point made by a culture authority. He said that if government institutions such as GSIS really want to promote culture and the arts, they could give endowments to the right culture bodies which must be better qualified to harness such resources. (GSIS has built its own art collection, but then, like it or not, it has other priorities, and the arts will, and should, never be its prime expertise.) In this case, the National Museum could have been tasked to make such acquisition.

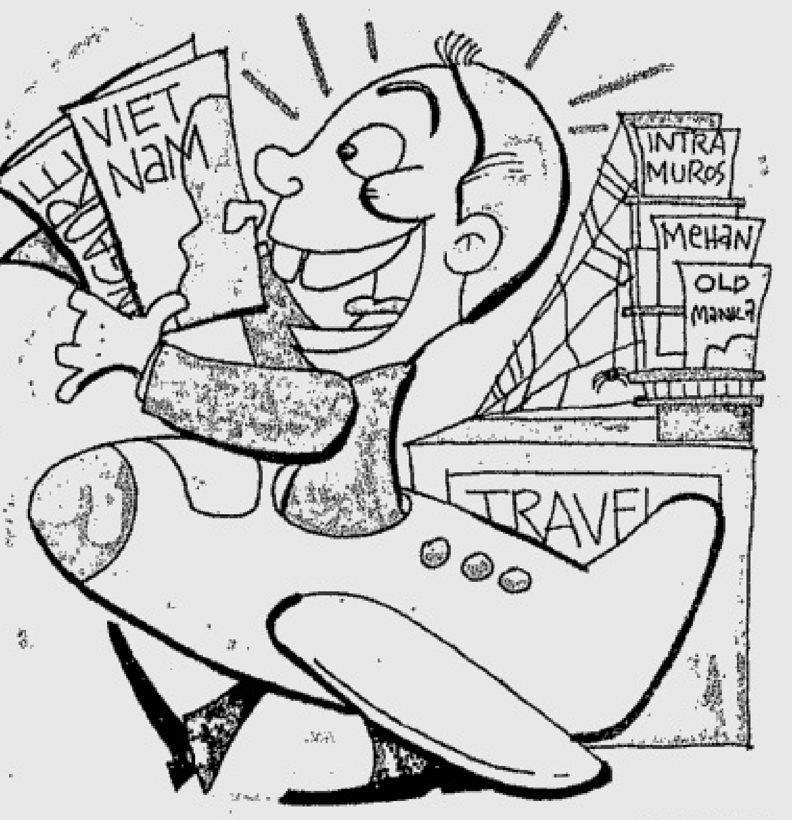
With endowments from government and private entities, culture institutions such as the National Museum will have the resources to plan, strategize, explore and present our culture agenda. The way things are, National Museum head Cora Alvina doesn't even know how to pay for next month's power and water bills.

Then, if the above were in place, we don't have to jump every time a masterpiece is up for auction abroad, and be cornered into paying ransom for it.

Also, the National Museum can finally activate a body that will classify culture treasures and which, therefore, must not leave the country.

To have a staggering budget deficit is bad enough, to have a bankrupt collective soul to go with it is even worse.

The Filipino elite makes regular travelers and shoppers abroad. It's a pity that such exposure to foreign culture and traditions seems not to have rubbed off on us. When we cease to be parochial about culture and things in general, then those junkets of our government officials will have served one bit.



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MECHANICS:

1. For every minimum purchase of P30.00 bread at any Julie's Bakeshop nationwide, a customer is entitled to one (1) Scratch Card.
2. The Scratch Card shall have five (5) covered squares. The customer then scratches off the covered area.
3. The prizes to be won are as follows: • Skygo SG110K Motorcycles • Nokia 3310 Cellphones • P30,000 Cash • P3,000 Cash • P300 Cash • P5 worth of Bread • Coke 240 mL. (contents only, bottle not icluded)
4. To win a Skygo motorcycle, the letters S - K - Y - G - O must appear in correct sequence to spell "Skygo" in all five squares.

S K Y G O

5. To win cash, the squares must contain the digit three (3) followed by the required number of zeros. The cash prize will correspond to the value of where the digit three is located. Cash prizes could only be any of the following combinations:

A. 3 0 0 0 0 = P30,000
B. Julie's 3 0 0 0 = P 3,000
C. Julie's Julie's 3 0 0 = P 300

6. To win cellphone units, the letters N - O - K - I - A must appear in correct sequence to spell "Nokia" in all five squares.

N O K I A

7. To win Julie's bread products or Coke softdrinks, the winning combinations are as follows:

Julie's Julie's Julie's Julie's 240ml COKE
Julie's Julie's Julie's Julie's FREE BREAD

8. All other combinations with "SORRY" in any of the boxes are non-winning combinations.

3 0 SORRY Julie's Julie's
S K Y SORRY O
N O SORRY O O
S SORRY K I A

9. Winning cards should be validated by the store cashier. Winners of Julie's and Coke products and P300 cash can claim their prizes instantly at the branch of purchase. Winners should indicate name, address and affix signature on the face of the winning card when prize is claimed.
10. Winning cards of the Skygo motorcycle, Nokia 3310 cellphone, P3,000 cash and P30,000 cash should validate and turn over their cards to the store cashier at the branch of purchase who will in turn forward it to the JFC office. They will then be given instant prize certificates which serve as acknowledgement receipt indicating the prize won and date the prize is to be claimed.
11. Only winning cards with authenticated winning security codes will be honored. If the security code of the card is scratched, the card is automatically disqualified from winning any prize.
12. All prizes are non-transferable and non-cash prizes can not be convertible to cash. All winners will be final upon the approval of the DTI representative.
13. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after the end of the promo period will be forfeited in favor of Julie's Franchise Corporation with prior approval from the DTI.
14. Promo period is from Nov. 10 to Dec. 9, 2002.

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See posters and flyers for more details.

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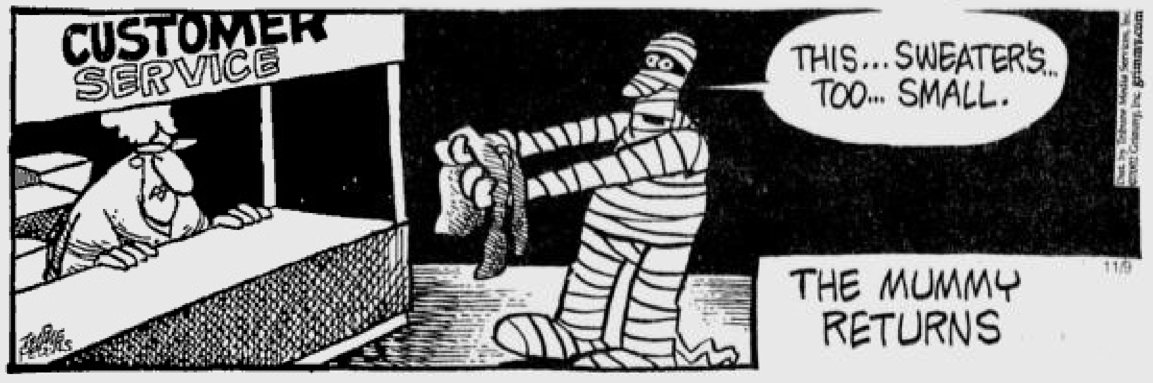
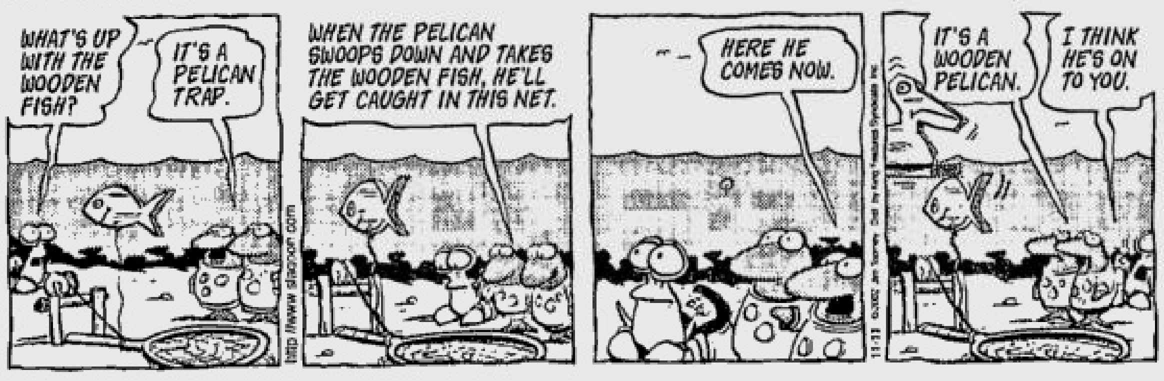
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


CUSTOMER SERVICE
THIS... SWEATER'S.. TOO... SMALL.
THE MUMMY RETURNS
11/9

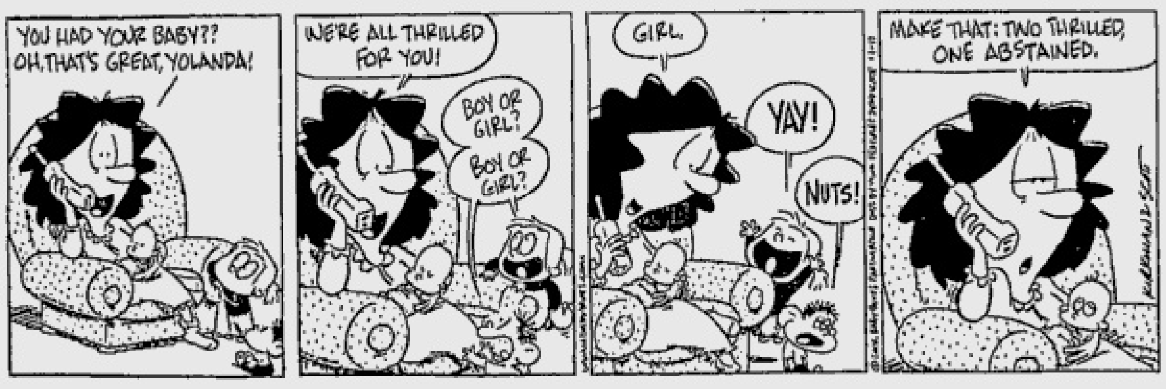
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S UP WITH THE WOODEN FISH?
IT'S A PELICAN TRAP.
WHEN THE PELICAN SWOOPS DOWN AND TAKES THE WOODEN FISH, HE'LL GET CAUGHT IN THIS NET.
HERE HE COMES NOW.
IT'S A WOODEN PELICAN.
I THINK HE'S ON TO YOU.
http://www.slagoon.com

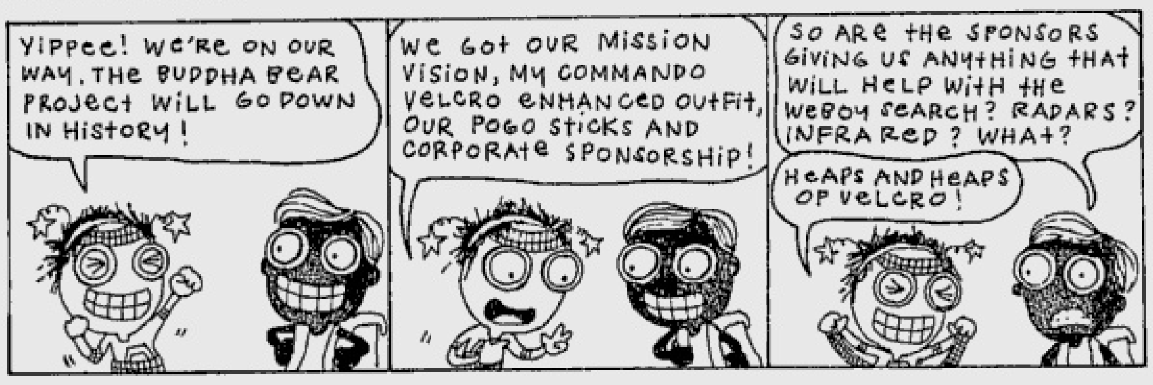
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU HAD YOUR BABY?? OH, THAT'S GREAT, YOLANDA!
WE'RE ALL THRILLED FOR YOU!
BOY OR GIRL?
BOY OR GIRL?
GIRL.
YAY!
NUTS!
MAKE THAT: TWO THRILLED, ONE ABSTAINED.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YIPPEE! WE'RE ON OUR WAY. THE BUDDHA BEAR PROJECT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY!
WE GOT OUR MISSION VISION, MY COMMANDO VELCRO ENHANCED OUTFIT, OUR POGO STICKS AND CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP!
SO ARE THE SPONSORS GIVING US ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP WITH THE WEBOY SEARCH? RADARS? INFRARED? WHAT?
HEAPS AND HEAPS OF VELCRO!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Demi Moore, Jonathan Winters, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Calista Flockhart

Happy Birthday: You will have a very eclectic outlook this year. That, coupled with your determination and unique ideas, will help you reach your objectives. You have traveled down many different avenues and now you can put all the information you've gathered to good use. Success is not far off. Your numbers are 19, 23, 27, 31, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your efforts will bring rewards if you have to work overtime. Dive in and do a good job. Romance is likely, but proceed with extreme caution.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Push to get everything completed today. You may need to turn on the charm in order to convince others. If you don't work fast, delays may set in and you may not have this opportunity again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may find that demanding relatives or minor health problems upset your plans. Try to go with the flow and not get upset. Situations may not be as they appear. Don't be too eager to sign legal documents.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you. Try not to lose your cool, but make your point known. Be clear with others about your boundaries.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be feeling sorry for yourself. Don't look at the end of a relationship as a loss. Keep in touch with friends. You may make a new love connection through work associates.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be self-reliant, make your own plans and don't wait for others to phone. You will see good results if you make some of those physical changes that you've been thinking about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Try not to be judgmental of relatives who don't have the same ambitions as you. Tension will fill the air if you continue to criticize others. Consider how you would feel if the tables were turned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have difficulties relating to foreigners. Read about their culture to understand their point of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's time to take a break. Plan to do things with the ones you love. A short trip will ease the stress and break the monotony.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you love will neither listen nor believe what you have to say. Actions speak louder than words in this case. Pull out all the stops and make sure that you get your point across.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Uncertainties at work will result in unexpected changes. You may be concerned at first, however, as the day unfolds, you will find yourself in a more stable position.

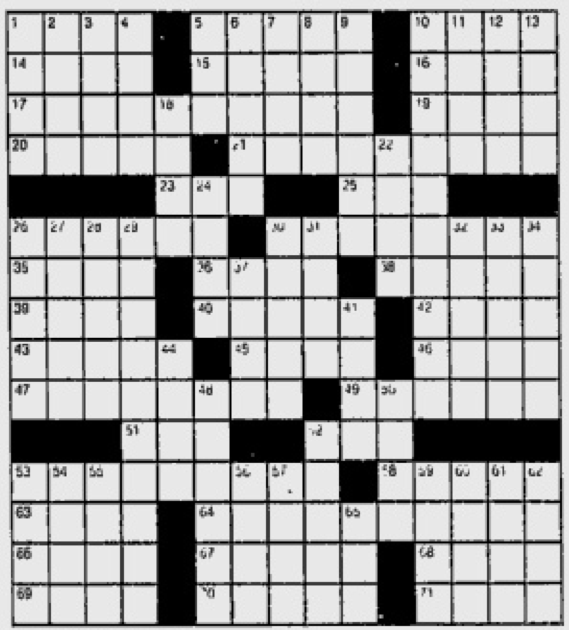
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't overspend on children, entertainment or organizations. This is a time to be frugal. Instead, offer your time and talent to groups. Investments should be looked at cautiously and carefully.

Birthday Baby: You will always be looking for something that captures your imagination and allows you to move in a new direction. You will be dedicated, determined and willing to go the extra mile.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Dissimulation
5 Site of rites
10 Strong wind
14 Consumes
15 Surgical dressing material
16 __-friendly
17 Creepy-crawlie?
19 "Beloved" author Morrison
20 Sound adjuster
21 Relating to the aged
23 Author of "Foucault's Pendulum"
25 Sultry West
26 Founder of genetics
30 Guy with a simple weapon
35 Sandwich cookie
36 Competent
38 Addis __, Eth.
39 Kind of stick?
40 Trepidation
42 Composer Khachaturian
43 Stage a coup
45 Basilica area
46 Animation
47 Most annoying
49 Wet impacts
51 Letter after zeta
52 Be unwell
53 Practice
58 Emulate Cicero
63 On the peak of
64 Pane store?
66 Stable denizen
67 Action starter?
68 Meadow mouse
69 Arcturus or Rigel, e.g.
70 On the way
71 Journalist Ernie

DOWN
1 Nuisance
2 Honolulu's island
3 Knock senseless
4 Punta del __, Uruguay
5 Vital statistic
6 Florida key
7 London subway
8 Cote d'__
9 Government in power
10 Formal dance on Skid Row?
11 Hebrew zither
12 Filmmaker Reifenstahl
13 Viking redhead
18 Shade source
22 Honor student's grades?
24 Dressed
26 Tidy any loose ends
27 Irregularly notched
28 Mulled wine
29 Key personnel?
30 Napped
31 Pod populace
32 "West Side Story" song
33 Sternward
34 Appellations
37 Lingerie pieces
41 Lucy's love
44 Pocket bread
48 Solicit persistently
50 Farm implement
52 Priscilla's dear John
53 NFL squad
54 Coup d'__
55 Dance circle
56 Chinese: pref.
57 Opposed to
59 Letters on an invitation
60 Nautical shout
61 Travel charge
62 Fencing sword
65 Part of NATO



By Vivian O. Collins
Leesburg, GA
11/11/02

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

E	F	F	E	T	E	■	P	A	R	A	P	E	T	S
M	O	L	T	E	N	■	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	C
I	R	O	N	E	D	■	T	O	L	E	R	A	T	E
R	E	R	A	N	■	D	E	G	A	S	■	G	A	P
A	M	I	■	■	T	A	N	E	Y	■	G	E	N	T
T	A	S	K	F	O	R	C	E	S	■	E	R	I	E
E	N	T	I	R	E	T	Y	■	■	S	M	E	A	R
■	■	■	L	A	S	S	■	D	A	L	I	■	■	■
S	T	I	L	T	■	■	H	A	B	A	N	E	R	A
L	A	C	E	■	S	T	O	V	E	P	I	P	E	S
E	V	E	R	■	P	E	T	E	S	■	■	I	F	S
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N	A	K	E	D	E	S	T	■	T	E	N	T	H	S

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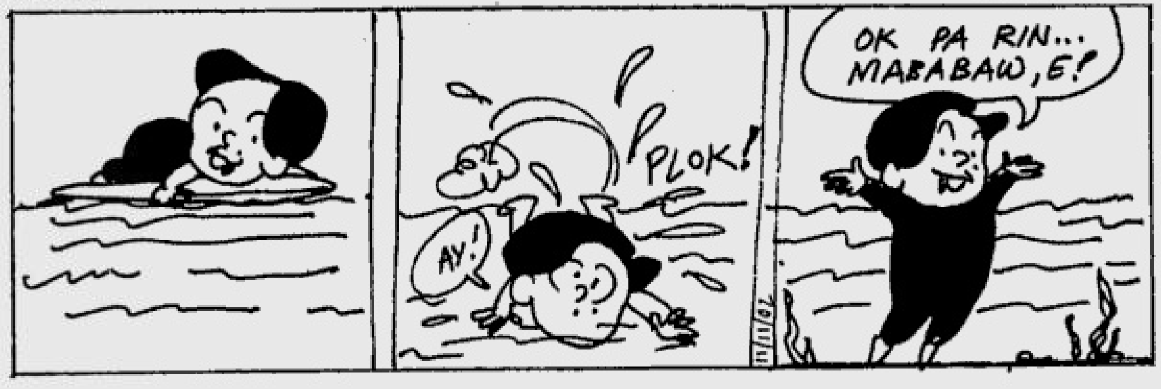
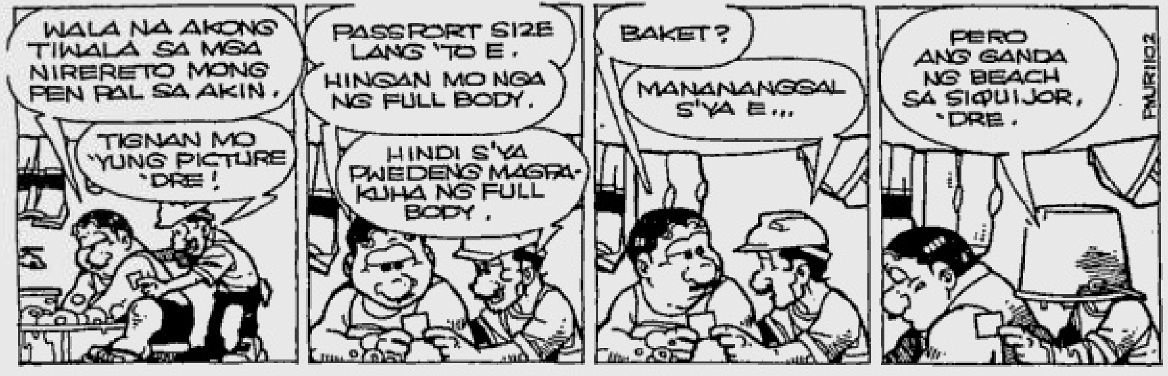
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PLOK!
AY!
OK PA RIN... MABABAW, E!
11/11/02

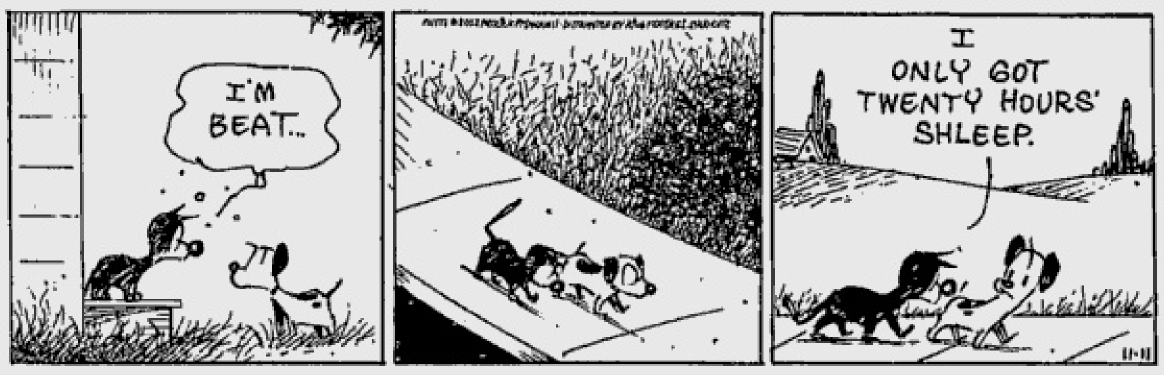
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


WALA NA AKONG TIWALA SA MGA NIRERETO MONG PEN PAL SA AKIN.
TIGNAN MO 'YUNG PICTURE 'DRE!
PASSPORT SIZE LANG 'TO E. HINGAN MO NGA NG FULL BODY.
HINDI S'YA PWEDENG MAGPA-KUHA NG FULL BODY.
BAKET?
MANANANGGAL S'YA E...
PERO ANG GANDA NG BEACH SA SIQUIJOR, 'DRE.
PMJR1102

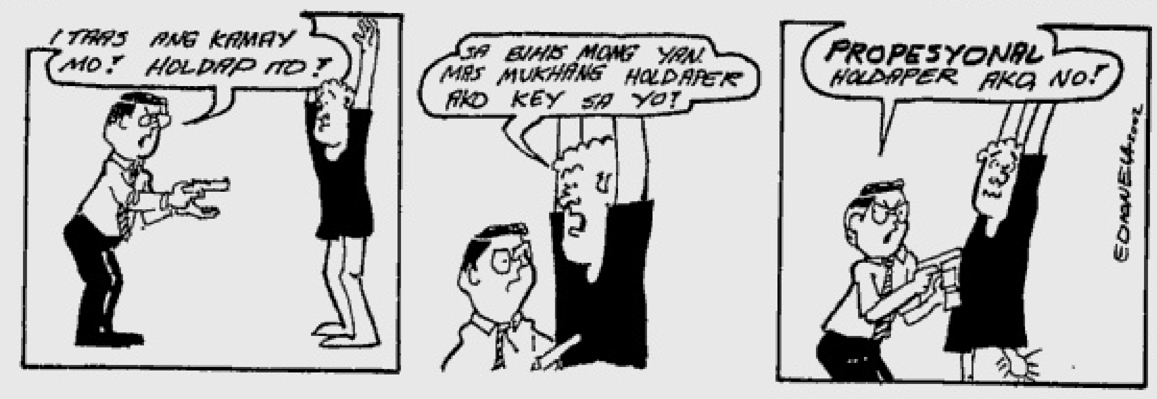
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M BEAT..
I ONLY GOT TWENTY HOURS' SHLEEP.
11-11

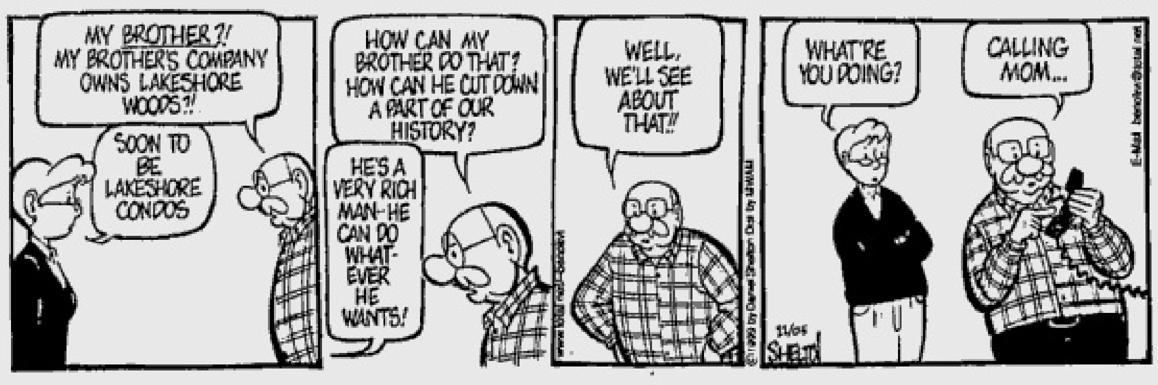
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ITAAS ANG KAMAY MO! HOLDAP ITO!
SA BIHIS MONG YAN MAS MUKHANG HOLDAPER AKO KEY SA YO!
PROPESYONAL HOLDAPER AKO NO!
EDIONELA2002

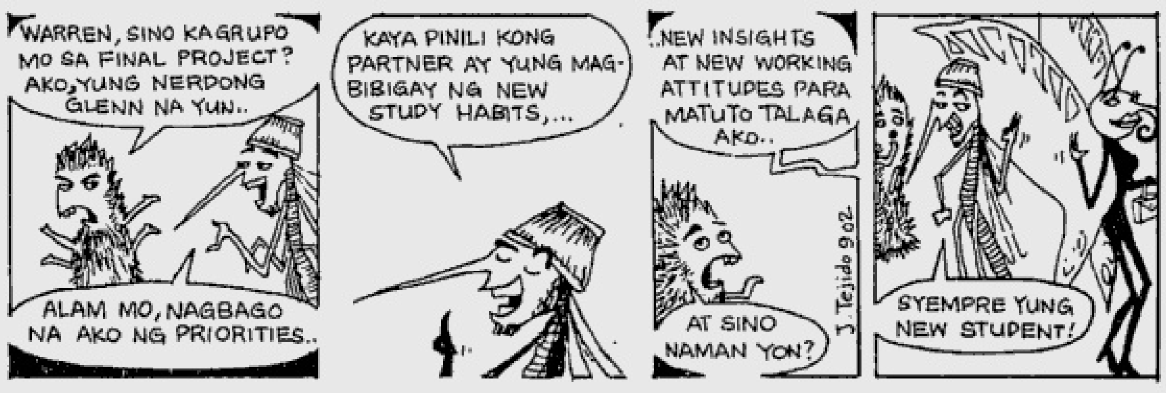
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MY BROTHER?! MY BROTHER'S COMPANY OWNS LAKESHORE WOODS?!
SOON TO BE LAKESHORE CONDOS
HOW CAN MY BROTHER DO THAT? HOW CAN HE CUT DOWN A PART OF OUR HISTORY?
HE'S A VERY RICH MAN - HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE WANTS!
WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
CALLING MOM...

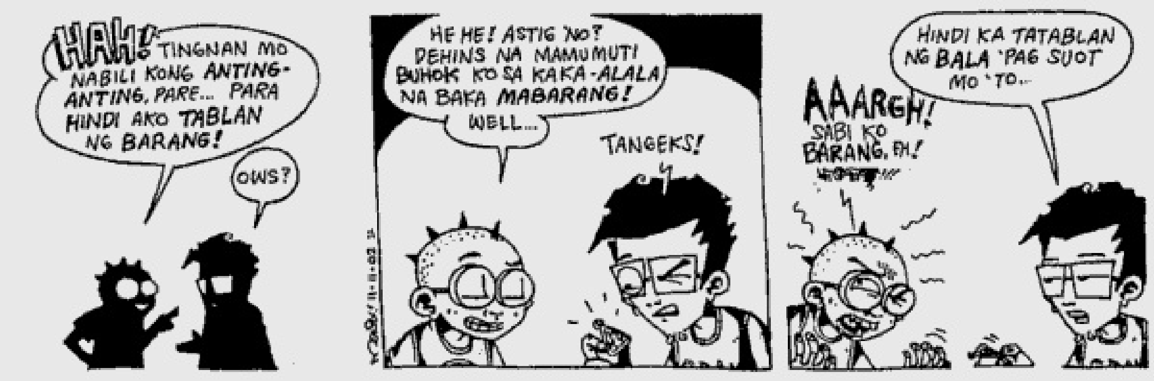
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WARREN, SINO KAGRUPO MO SA FINAL PROJECT? AKO, YUNG NERDONG GLENN NA YUN..
ALAM MO, NAGBAGO NA AKO NG PRIORITIES..
KAYA PINILI KONG PARTNER AY YUNG MAGBIBIGAY NG NEW STUDY HABITS,...
..NEW INSIGHTS AT NEW WORKING ATTITUDES PARA MATUTO TALAGA AKO..
AT SINO NAMAN YON?
SYEMPRE YUNG NEW STUDENT!
J. Tejido 9 02

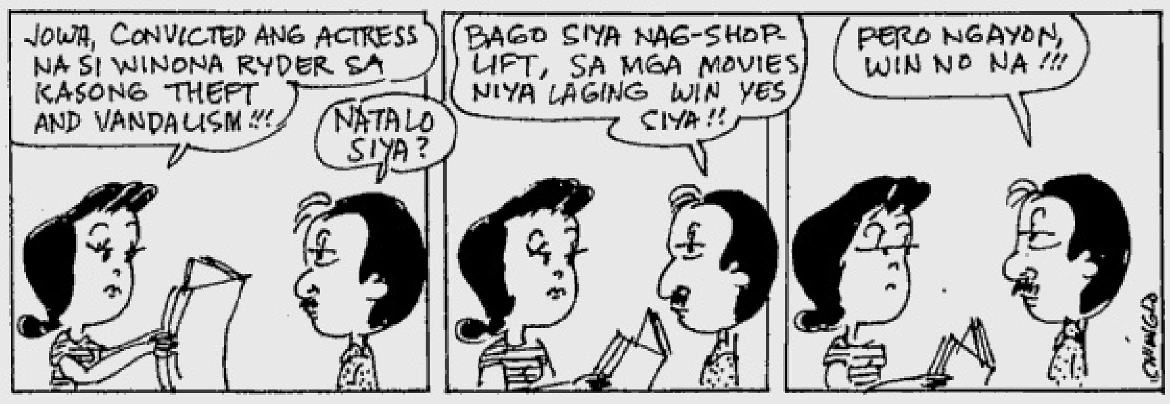
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! TINGNAN MO NABILI KONG ANTING-ANTING, PARE... PARA HINDI AKO TABLAN NG BARANG!
OWS?
HE HE! ASTIG 'NO? DEHINS NA MAMUMUTI BUHOK KO SA KAKA-ALALA NA BAKA MABARANG! WELL...
TANGEKS!
AAARGH! SABI KO BARANG, EH!
HINDI KA TATABLAN NG BALA 'PAG SUOT MO 'TO..

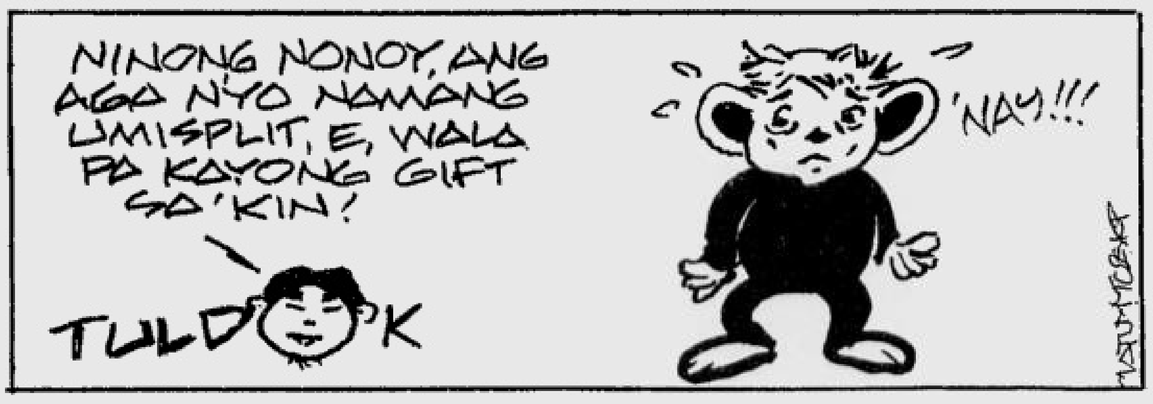
LOVEKNOTS

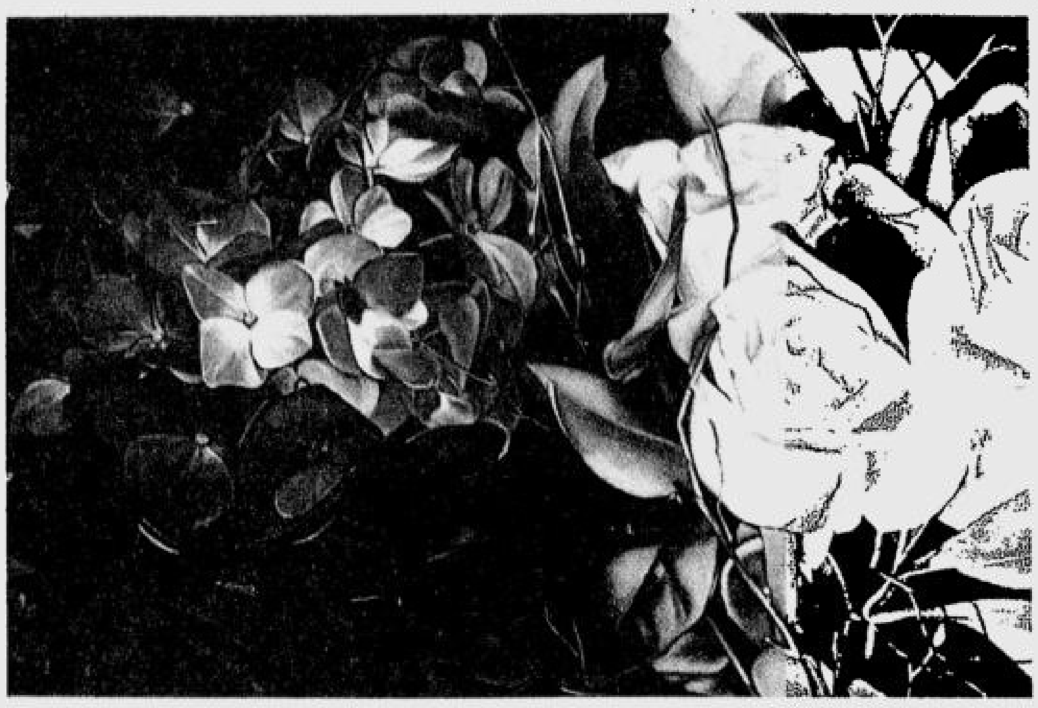
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, CONVICTED ANG ACTRESS NA SI WINONA RYDER SA KASONG THEFT AND VANDALISM!!!
NATALO SIYA?
BAGO SIYA NAG-SHOP-LIFT, SA MGA MOVIES NIYA LAGING WIN YES CIYA!!
PERO NGAYON, WIN NO NA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NINONG NONOY, ANG AGA NYO NAMANG UMISPLIT, E, WALA PA KAYONG GIFT SA'KIN!
TULDOK
'NAY!!!



MEMBERS of the Social Security System Photography Club during a meeting at the SSS headquarters in Quezon City. The group is holding a photo exhibit, "Multiple Exposure," at the SSS Art Gallery until Nov. 29. Shown in photo are (standing, from left) Ronald Babol, Miriam Lomarda, Fred Ibay, Lina Francisco, Olivia Valera, Vangie Dabu-Go, Noli Barzabal, May Oftana, Bonnie Hernato, and Boboy Gumba. Seated are (from left) Pabz Aldave, Manuel Palongan Jr., Moy Borlaza, Jesse Revecho, Chito Abalos and Piddy Radam.

Mona's flower art in Finale, Doctor, Severino and Caluag at Discovery

VISUAL ARTS

MONA, the artist who signs her paintings with only her first name, has become synonymous with large-scale works of flowers. "New Blooms" is her latest one-woman show at Finale Art Gallery (Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall A), which runs from Nov. 5-17. Her compositions are complex, with the petals and leaves comprising forms and embodying colors. She handles paint with miraculous assurance, deftly but never as a show-off. The boldness of scale with which she tackles her subject matter gives her art a contemporary edge.

EDGAR Doctor, Lino Severino and Ching Caluag will mount a show, "Variations 3," Nov. 15, at the lobby of the Discovery Centre (25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center). On show are works, mostly in watercolor, on such themes as landscape, seascape, still life, pastorale, and floral motif. Part of the proceeds will go to the Vince Hizon Foundation to assist poor but deserving elementary school children. Call 635-2222 ext. 3212.

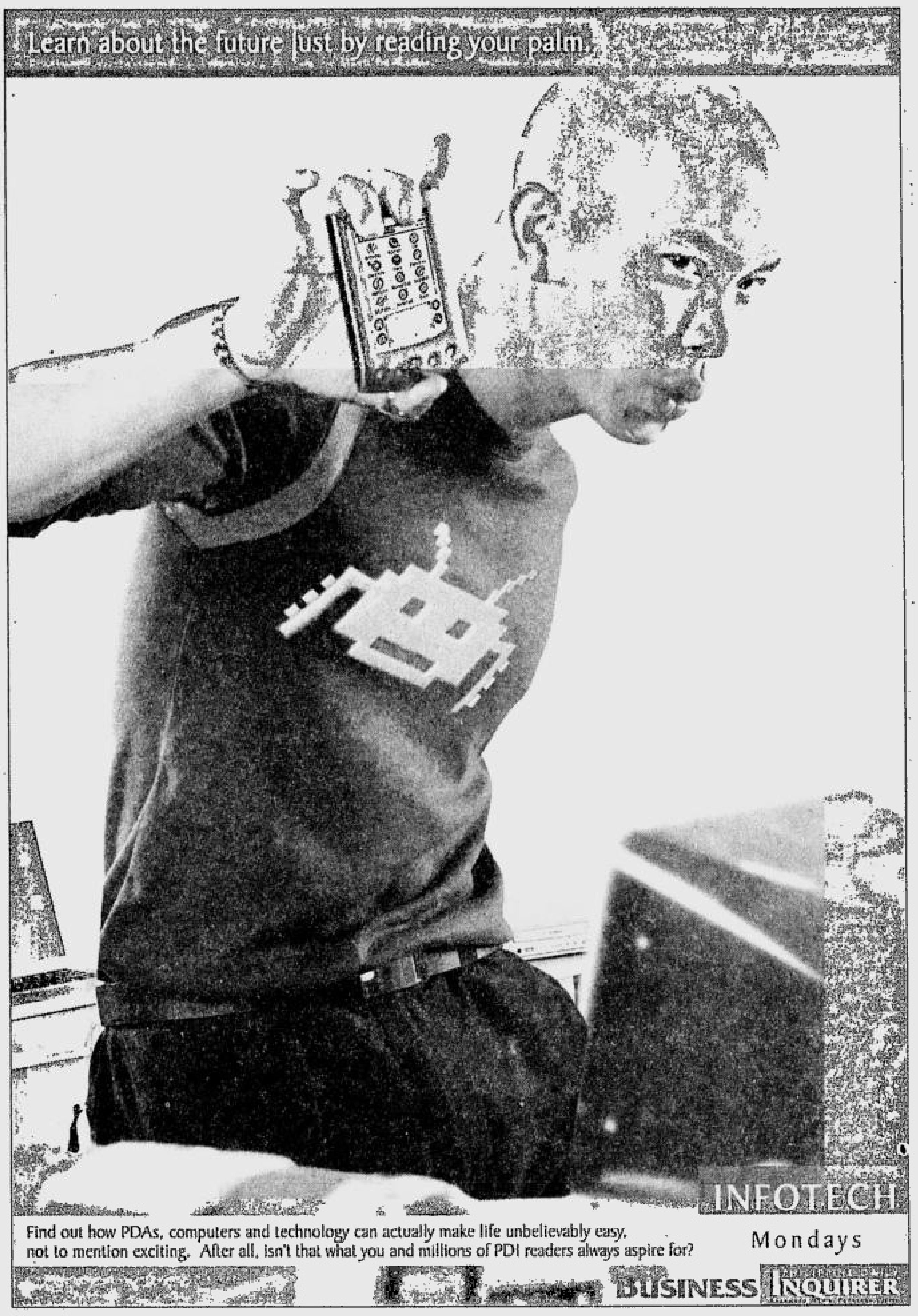
NORLY and Felix Jesus Meimban IV will hold a father-and-son exhibit "Horses and Figures," Nov.25-Dec.13, at Surreala Cafe, Mother Ignacia Street corner Timog Ave., QC.

DOGMANSTAR, composed of UST Fine Arts alumni Pedro Garcia, Mark Vincent Matabilas and Wesley Valenzuela, with Olan Ventura of the University of the East, will hold a show, "Faith and Devotion," at the UST Museum starting today. The works in various media depict Filipino Catholicism. Curator is Jocelyn Dare Tullao. Show runs until Nov. 29.

POSITIVISM Art Gallery at the Enterprise Plaza, 1249 Pablo Ocampo St., (formerly Vito Cruz Extension), Brgy. San Antonio, Makati City, is offering 20-50 percent discount on paintings, drawings, porcelain plates, and sculptures from Nov. 11-Dec. 31. Proceeds from the art sale will benefit less fortunate children attending free art lessons conducted by the art gallery. Participating artists include Jess Garcia, Nick Aranda, Domen Labordo, Elver Panuela,

MONA'S/ p.D6

35th **SHELL STUDENTS ART EXHIBIT OPENING.** The 2002 Shell National Students Art Exhibition formally opened to the public on Oct. 16 at the 4/F Bridgeway, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit showcased the 100 best entries chosen from over 1,100 artworks submitted from all over the country. Present during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, from left, are Rudy Naguit, Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) deputy country chairman; Enok Santiago, wife of SciP country chairman Eliseo Santiago; Cindy Kanapi, wife of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi; presidential daughter and guest of honor Evangelina Lourdes "Luli" M. Arroyo; and Benito Bernardo Jr., PSPC vice president for corporate affairs.



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Mondays

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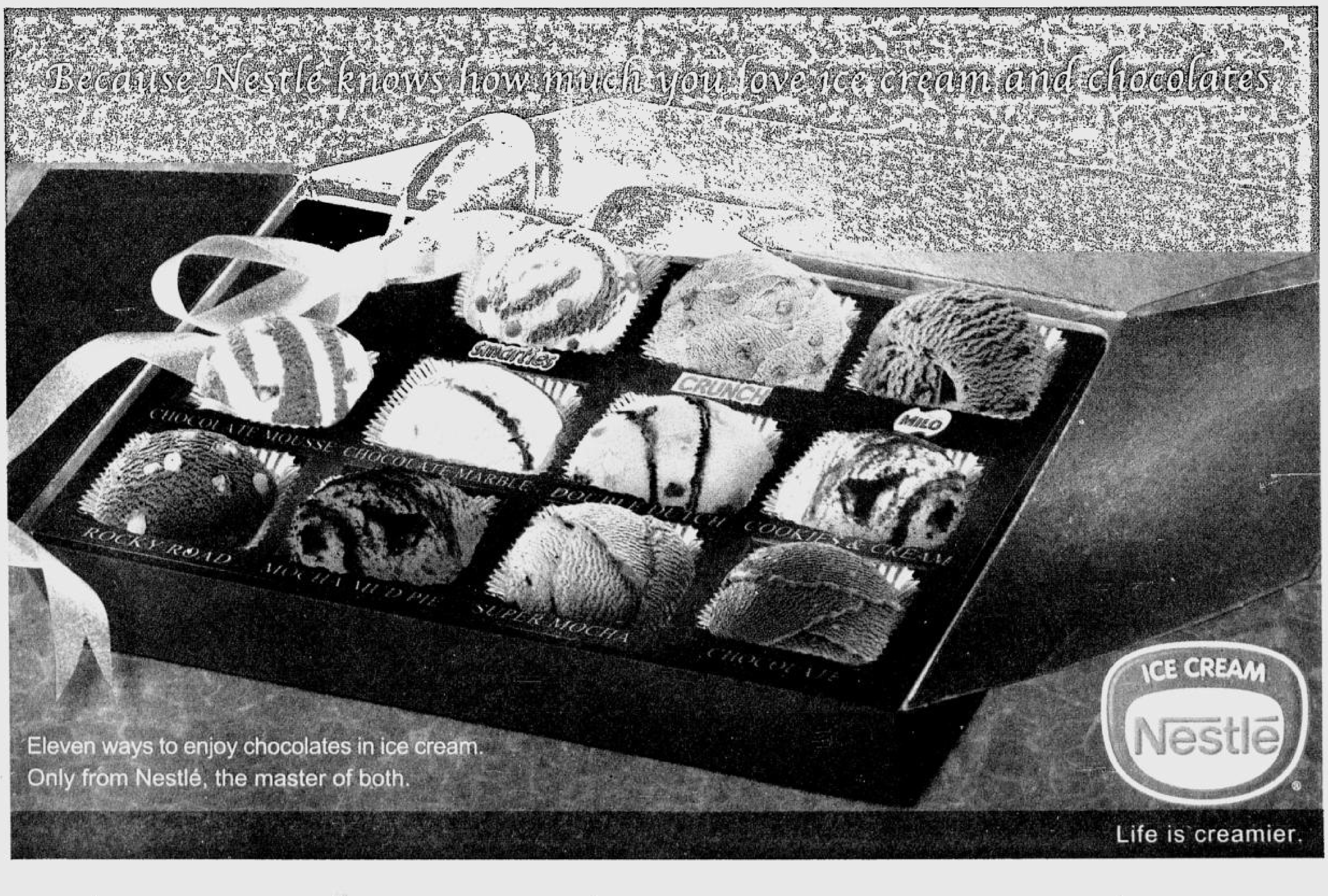

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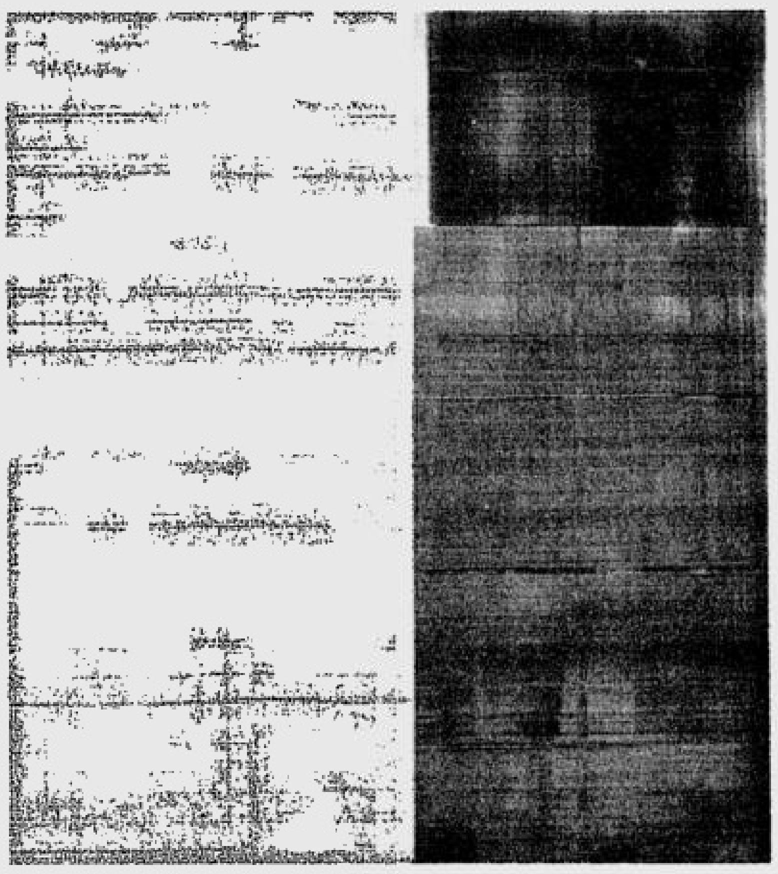
Lito Carating's 'Tranquil Refuge'



"AFTER the Rain"

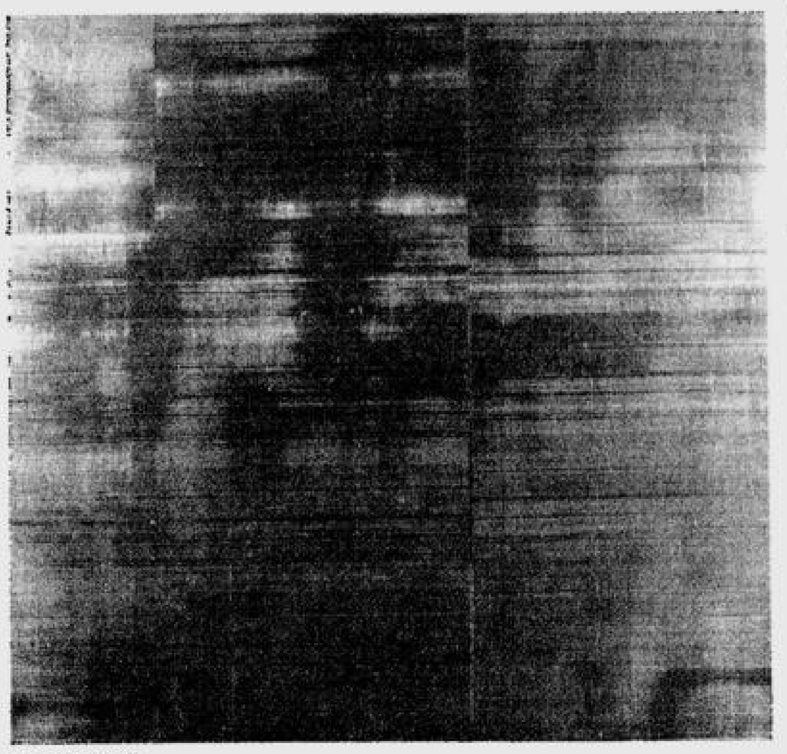
LITO Carating has plunged himself into creating a sanctuary of large walls, with layers and layers of metallic acrylic, gold, copper and bronze. Within these walls he sits, enigmatic and mysterious, a deity in his own universe, reflecting the hues and their movements, the layers of shapes that dance in the light.

His canvases are large in order to encompass and protect the artist, the solid hues are his "refuge." You sink into the shimmer and the shadow. The greens are comforting; the golds alight on your skin; the silvers and bronzes are equally beckoning. Lured into Carating's universe and leaving reality behind, you understand that these reflecting sheaths do not only enfold you, they mirror your dreams, or tell you what is hidden in your mind.

Carating's paint is applied solid and thick. The work requires not only artistic sensibility, but also brawn, coordination and daring.

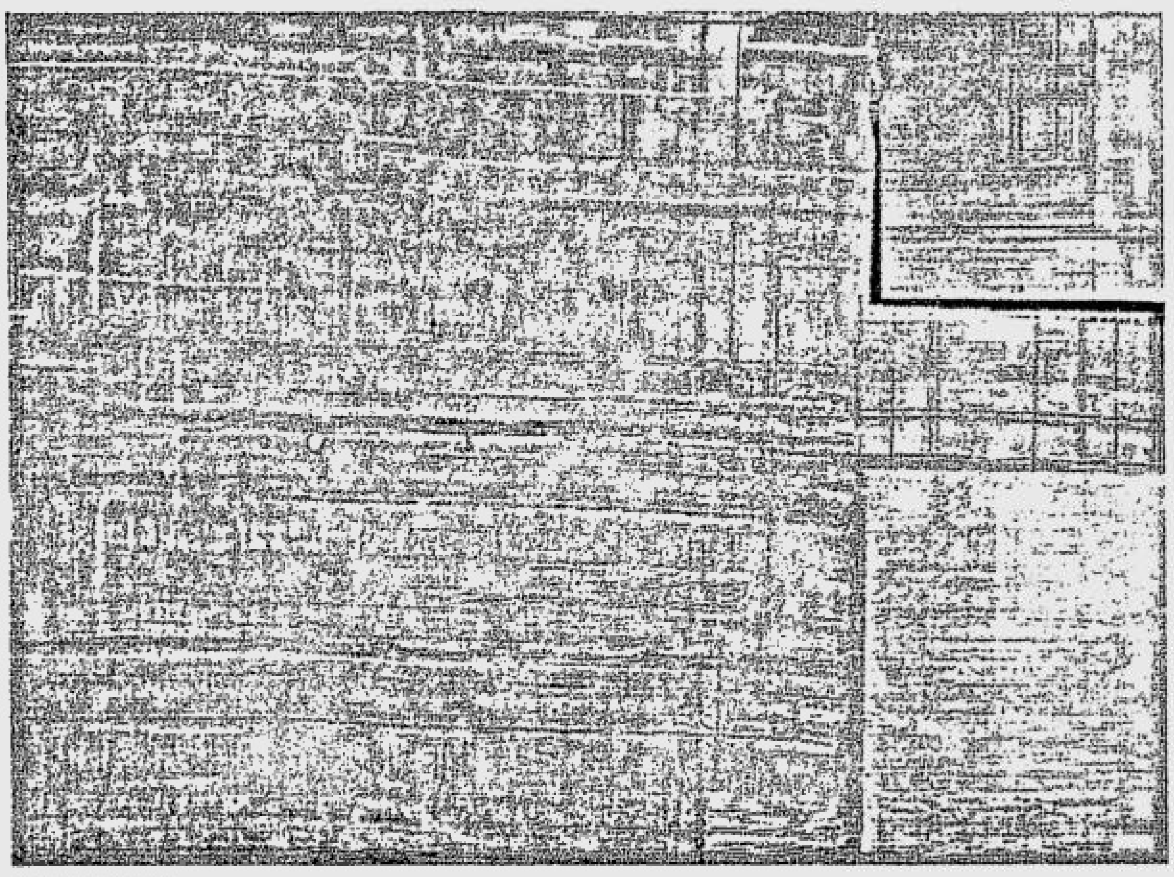
Carating has won almost all the major national competitions in his 30 years as an artist. He has exhibited all over the United States and Europe. He paints with the luminescence and maturity of one who has not only found and cultivated his muse, but also discovered in her, tranquility and refuge.

"Tranquil Refuge" opens on Nov. 16 at the Hiraya Gallery, 530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila. Call/fax 523-3331, or e-mail hiraya@info.com.ph and visit the website http://www.hiraya.com

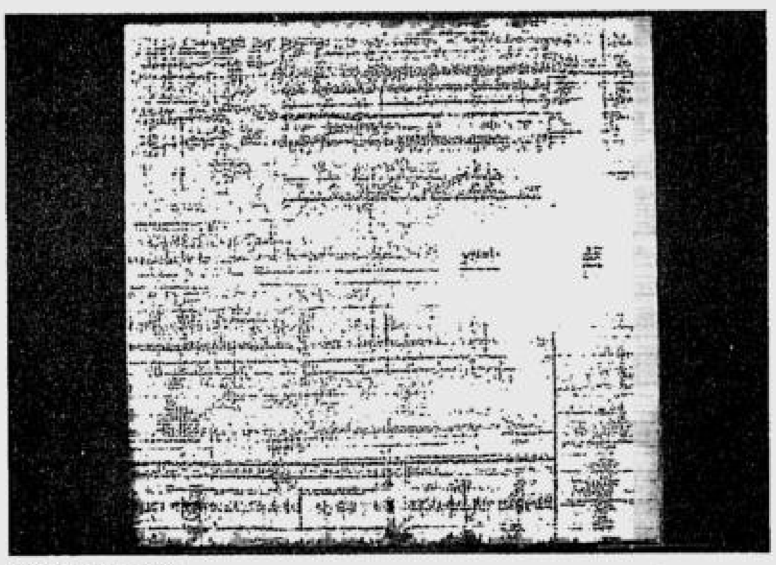


"SUNSET"

NORBERTO Carating



"INTRUDER"



"MIRAGE #3"

Mona's . . .

From page D5

Joseph Clavita, Rolly de Vera, Gene de Loyola, Robert Abog, Mark Celeste, Mark Cempron, Nards Zepeda, Bing Siochi, Ritchie Tagle, Ramon Doplon, Noel Bautista, Grace Manahan, Romy Lacson, Nelson Santos and Bert Ollague. Call 816-0904, 899-6358 or (0917)972-6223.

THE ART DISCOVERY Learning Foundation, Inc. will present a one-child art exhibit on Dec.2-10 at the Philippine Children's Medical Center, Quezon Ave., QC. It will showcase 11-year-old Myra Ruth G. Picart's oil and watercolors of landscapes and still life.
Although this is Picart's first one-child exhibit, her works have been included in previous shows at the Metropolitan Museum, University of Santo Tomas Museum, University of the Philippines Vargas Hall and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Call 924-6425 or 925-8801.

"PINTANAW: Isang Makulay na Pananaw," a group exhibit of Lino Acasio, Boy Bandalan, Buds Convocar, Noel Catacutan, Dems de la Cruz, Eliezer Dimaculangan, Caloy Gabuco, Jimmy Kwong, Robbie Nubla, Fred Ramirez, Omi Reyes, Melencio Sapou, Danilo Santiago and Fidel Sarmiento. Coined by Sarmiento, the group's leader and president of the Art Association of the Philippines, the word "Pintanaw" combines the Filipino words *pinta* (to paint) and *tanaw* (to view). The members, who will hold special sketching sessions during the exhibition, invite interested sitters to join them. The show, in Gallery Genesis, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City, runs until Nov. 21. Call 633-8137 or 633-8138.

AN EXHIBIT of Naga jewelry by a Burmese designer Wynn Wynn Ong and Tibetan antique furniture and fine art opens on Nov. 15 at Firma, Greenbelt 3. Named after the Asian mythical dragon, Naga jewelry is highly individualized in style. No two pieces are identical. Ong experiments and plays with form, texture and color. Materials range from opaque to translucent Asian, South American, African and Middle Eastern semi-precious stones. The designer also experiments with other materials such as wood, Swarovski crystals, corals and unusually shaped pearls. The dragon theme is carried in Firma's collection of Tibetan antique furniture and fine art. Classical *thangkhas* depicting deities in great detail have been executed by master artists who follow a complex set of rules for each image.

DECOUPAGE in black plates

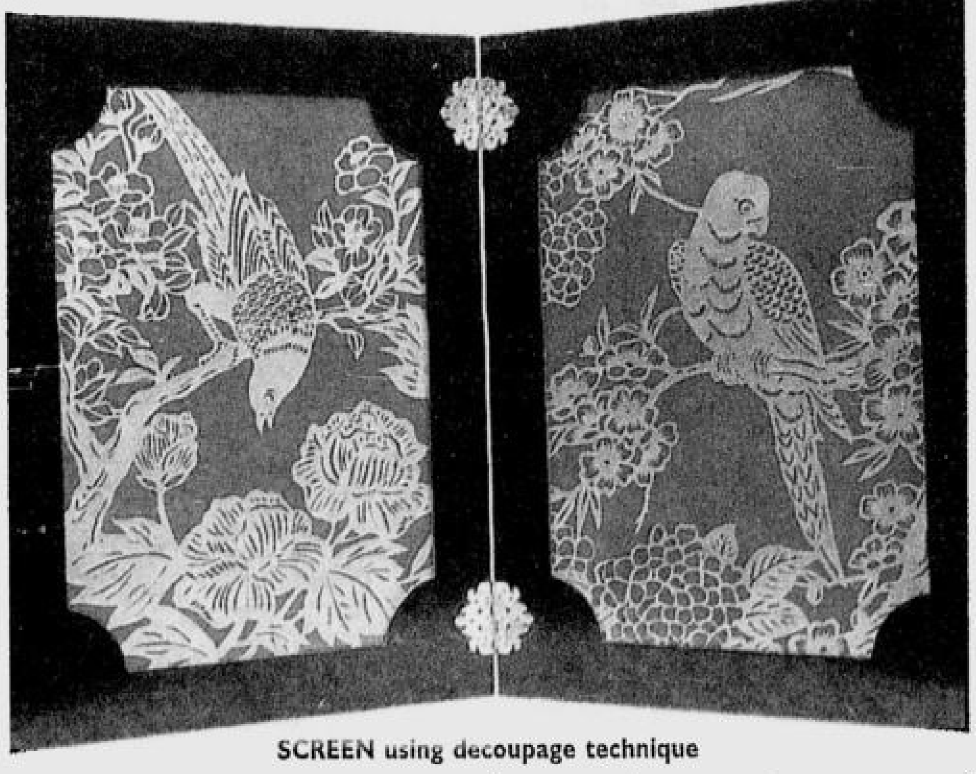
Decorative arts on exhibit

DECORATIVE art pieces intricately styled in various techniques and forms by the members of the Guild of Decorative Artists will be on exhibit on Nov. 15-Dec. 22 at the Ayala Museum, 3/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati. Proceeds of the exhibit will go to the Art for Life Disabled Artist's Care (National Anti-Poverty Commission, Persons with Disability Sector).

The Guild of Decorative Artists, Inc. is an association organized by those who have taken up Decorative Arts classes at the Escuela sa Museo of Ayala Museum. Led by its founding chairperson, Carmen Prieto, the members conduct regular outreach projects in poor sectors of society through training programs on the decorative arts for livelihood.

During the exhibit, there will be free demonstrations on various decorative art techniques. Schedule is as follows: Decoupage, Nov. 16, 2 p.m.; Stencil, Nov. 22, 4 p.m.; Stamping, Nov. 23, 2 p.m.; Verdigris, Nov. 29, 4 p.m.; Gilding, Nov. 30, 2 p.m.; Marbling, Dec. 6, 4 p.m.; Glass Painting, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.; and Candle Decorating, Dec. 13, 4 p.m.

Call Ethel Villafranca at 813-4485, or e-mail inquiry@ayalamuseum.com.



SCREEN using decoupage technique

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TANGHALANG PILIPINO'S 'ANG LIGAWANG LIGAW'

Shakespeare as teen flick?

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

IT'S a little mind-boggling to equate the Bard with your average prepubescent romance movie, but that's how some cast members of Tanghalang Pilipino's (TP) new Shakespearean play, "Ang Ligawang Ligaw (Love's Labour's Lost)," look at it.

To begin with, you have a conundrum of confusion wreaked by love letters mistakenly given to the wrong objects of desire. Add to that the folly of so-called proper young men throwing their vows of celibacy to the wind as they fall head over heels in love. And probably insert some scenes with a couple of handsome hunks that parody people's popular concepts of the gorgeous and the good-looking.

But it's still Shakespeare. Teen flick it may appear to be but, as director Jose(fina) Estrella adds, "with quality."

Maybe it is part of the venerable theater company's new thrust to make the dramatic art form accessible to a young MTV-bred, text-language-savvy generation that would rather tinker with their mobile phones and PCs rather than dig for literary gems in libraries. William Shakespeare, generally regarded as the greatest dramatist this planet has ever birthed, can be intimidating to many.

Yet, says TP's assistant production manager

SHAKESPEARE/ p.E2

ROMANCE wins over solemn vows.

Boy's Town Davao

To rise above one's frailty and mistakes is a decision that requires a lot of work and determination. It is switching paths, straightening up for a new set of challenges.

Ivan, a 27-year-old volunteer of Boys Town Foundation Inc. in Davao, was addicted to drugs for some years. But he decided to save what was left of his future and volunteered to rehabilitate himself.

With a renewed life, he committed his time to the Boys Town Foundation through a recommendation of a priest in the Diocesan Clergy of Cotabato to Fr. Franco Uras of Boys Town in Davao.

He has been in Boys Town for two months now helping the kids in their studies. "I love my job and I am happy here," Ivan said.

His addiction is of a different kind this time – a passion to help Boys Town kids attain a better future. He shared that he is also helping himself in the process, completely turning away from what could have been his greatest mistake.

Roberto "Doydoy" Capuyan's case is tragic, with Death taking away his family one by one.

His mother died of colon tumor, his elder brother died of epileptic seizure and his father, on his way home drunk, fell and was ran over by the very truck he was riding on causing his instantaneous death. A few months later, his younger brother became ill and also died.

Doydoy was still too young to remember all four incidents. His sister Rosalie only narrated all these to him.

A neighbor adopted the three surviving orphans. The adoptive parents treated them well at the start but when they had their first-born child, things changed. The indifference forced Rosalie to run away and get married at the age of 18. Now, only Doydoy and one other sibling are left with their adoptive parents.

In May 2002, Rosalie was hospitalized in Davao and diagnosed with cancer. Doydoy traveled all the way from Agusan del Sur to attend to his sister. He was placed under the Missionary of Charities, a charitable institution run by nuns. A few days later, Rosalie died of cancer, just like their mother.

The nuns who took care of Doydoy advised his adoptive parents to place the child under Boys Town, another institution run by the orders of Don Bosco. The foundation has existed in Ma-a, Davao for 30 years now. It sits on a two-hectare property that accommodates 64 underprivileged boys at present. By 2005, it expects to assist a maximum of 150 boys.

Father Uras, who heads the foundation said, "Neglect of these kids now will be detrimental to society tomorrow. They are potential criminals, and you, your children and your grand children will be threatened tomorrow and the days after."

Boys Town is just one of the non-government organizations that Caltex has been supporting through the years. The company believes that the work of Boys Town must be encouraged, facilitated and promoted. And Doydoy is just one of the hundreds of children who benefits from Caltex's support.

Doydoy is now 12 years old and his only living sibling is still with his adoptive parents. Doydoy dreams to become a doctor to help the poor who are sick. He believes that if only they had money then, his sister would have survived the ordeal. His most agonizing memory was to watch helplessly as his sister moaned in pain. He says that Boys Town helped him cope with his problems. "Now, I feel I am being loved. I never felt it before."

Caltex Philippines, as a responsible corporate citizen, generates innovative programs for disadvantaged children like Ivan and Doydoy. This thrust is under the Caltex Fund Street-to-School Program that was launched in 1999. The Mindanao component of the program benefits seven non-government organizations based in General Santos and Davao.

Caltex hopes to bring the Caltex Fund to other areas where there is a growing presence of disadvantaged children. The call is urgent and it needs to be addressed right now!

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For more information on how you can help just text <CALTEX> to 2433 for Smart or call the DSWD hotline at 864-1111.

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What Drives You CALTEX

Shakespeare as teen flick?

From page E1

Walter Ang, it's a common mistake, and probably a disservice to the Master, for "people to think that Shakespeare is always heavy."

Sure, the very mention of the name usually conjures up the suicidal star-crossed lovers of "Romeo and Juliet," the vacillating vindictiveness of the Danish prince in "Hamlet," or the bloody trail of ambition carved by "Macbeth" or "Richard III." But the playwright has his lighter side. "As You Like It," "The Twelfth Night," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are romps through the foibles of love.

"Love's Labour's Lost," though, differs from the pack in that the romances did not end in marriage.

"It has a bittersweet ending," says Estrella, "That is the point of the play: [the male leads find it] easy to make vows and then [find it equally easy] to break them. In the end, there's no trace of that oath, and the girls [they pursue] make fun of them for doing so."

The "simple, bare plot line" begins with a solemn self-dedication made by the King Ferdinand of Navarre (Kokoy Palma) and his three lords Biron (Roeder Camanag), Loungeville (Paolo Rodriguez) and Dumaine (Randy Villarama) to a life of total scholarship. This means abstaining from the pleasures of life, including women and romance.

But the arrival of the lovely Princess of France (Gilleth Sandico with Missy Maramara as alternate) and her three ladies (Maris Dimayua, Lillian Chu and Lesley Ann Leveriza alternating with Athena Masilugnan) distracts the King and his comrades. All four gentlemen pursue their chosen ladylove, at the same time trying to hide it from everybody else. Of course, one mistake leads to another, until the deception unravels.

The whimsical tone is a "360-degree turn" from the director's recent plays, notably the surrealist treatment of Federico Garica Lorca's "El Publico," which kept audiences guessing until the end with its phantasmagorical images of sex, passion and even religion in the theater.

"It is a change... to do something funny and light," Estrella says. "If I had a choice, maybe I would have chosen 'Titus Andronicus' or a darker play. But *hindi ako aatras kay* Shakespeare. It's a challenge for a director."

The Dulaang UP artistic director has certainly carved her own niche of tackling difficult, provocative material, or adding new nuances and angles to the more familiar ones.

Before "Publico," Estrella's interpretation of Ramon del Valle Inclan's "Divinas Palabras" raised the standards of horror in Philippine theater; a powerful blanket of sin, felt rather than seen, really showed what it meant to literally have the devil himself rule your town. Her "A Winter's Tale," again by Shakespeare, seamlessly blended the polarities of age and youth, personal integrity and family loyalty, with the changing seasons.

"What attracts me to a piece are the images that I see. In 'Divinas Palabras,' it was this crippled boy being sold on a cart. I could see something like this happening in the Philippines! In 'Publico,' of course, it was [the whole concept of] the theater. 'A Winter's Tale' had strong women characters."

The audiences could very well expect the same powerful images in this simple Shakespearean romance.

Estrella says, "In the beginning, everything will be austere. There is no comfort. But love changes the whole world when it comes. At first, we have a vast expanse of green. When the characters fall in love, the flowers begin blooming, and the space is transformed. The transformative power of love is the theme. Even the language [of the translation] changes, from the more structured to a loose, casual kind.

"Yet, at the heart of it, love is not all roses. Something can happen to dampen it. The play is like a fairy tale—but with a bittersweet ending."

Tanghalang Pilipino's production of Shakespeare's "Ang Ligawang Ligaw (Love's Labour's Lost") runs at the CCP Tanghalang Tolentino until Nov. 24.

THE BARD does not have to be heavy at all times.

THE TEMPTING maidens in "Ligawang Ligaw"

The Philippine-Italian connection in music

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

AS the Philippine-Italian Association presents Cecile Licad with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, in a reprise of Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Paganini, I can't help recalling her early Italian conquest of Florence, Sicily and Milan. In those recitals, she was one of the soloists in Beethoven's Triple Concerto in Rome along with cellist Antonio Meneses and an American violinist.

I am actually looking at Licad's picture in Venice surrounded by doves. I can't help recalling scenes from a Luchino Visconti film based on a novel by Thomas Mann.

Licad is no diva, but critics single out her ability to make the piano sing like one.

"There's breathing in music like in opera singing," she had told a Filipino journalist after performing with Rostropovich in Manila in the early '80s. "I've listened to other pianists go very fast, and I think it's more convincing if you're relaxed and breathing—like an opera singing art songs."

In the Nov. 18 concert with the PPO, Licad will be preceeded by singers interpreting Italian arias. Camille Lopez will sing Verdi's "Ritorna Vincitor" (from "Aida") and tenor Nolyn Cabahug will reprise the vocally perilos "Nessun Dorma" (from "Turandot"), together with the PPO, under the baton of Ruggero Barbieri.

As we look forward to this Italian night titled "Una Notte d' Incanto" (Night of Enchantment), it is but proper that we retrace the Philippine-Italian connection in music.

Betty Ildelfonso-Chalkley, director of the PIA, notes that Philippine-Italian connection–-not necessarily in music—started as early as 1521 when Italian chronicler Antonio Pigafetta joined Ferdinand Magellan in his historic voyage to the Philippines.

Then in his mid-20s, Pigafetta was reported to have exclaimed upon seeing the topless maidens of Mactan Island, *"Queste regazze sono molto belle!"*

Pigafetta was the first Italian honored by the Philippine-Italian Association with a 15-foot bronze statue built in Cebu City in 1980.

What aspect of Italian life was adopted by Filipinos? The opera-going habit.

The "Italianization" of the Philippines might have started in the mid-1900s, when Italian opera companies, with Italian soloists, started to be heard in Manila and the provinces.

There was a record of an Italian opera company headed by a Senior Gore, who mounted operas at the Variadades Theater in Tondo in 1882.

Donizerri's "Lucia di Lammermoor" was said to have been premiered in the Philippines on Nov. 26, 1886, at the Tondo Theater. It was repeated two years later in the same theater on Feb. 25, 1888, with the same cast.

A Filipino musician educated by these visiting Italian opera companies was Ladislaw Bonus (born 1854) who formed an all-Filipino opera company in 1887 and staged "Lucrezia Borgia," "Linda de Chamounix," "La Traviata" and "Lucia di Lammermoor" at the Teatro Zorilla, then located at what is now Claro M. Recto Avenue.

Bonus also founded the Orquestra Femenina de Pandacan (Women Orchestra of Pandacan), which was known as the "Venice of the Orient" because of its large concentration of musicians at the time.

Verdi's "Aida" was also first heard in Manila in 1888, with one Luigi Casati as orchestra director, probably in the same theater.

JOVITA Fuentes with her Italian teacher

"Aida" was resurrected at the Manila Grand Opera House on Feb. 2, 1933, with an all-Filipino cast—Angela de Gonzaga sang the title role, Manuel Galicano (bass) played as the king of Egypt, Carmen Bernabe as Amneris, and José Barredo (tenor) as Radames.

It was from this exposure to Italian opera singers and mentors that Filipino singers began to aspire a career in opera.

Isang Tapales was the first Filipino to sing "Madama Butterfly" in Ruggero Barbieri's hometown, Bergamo, in 1924 at the Teatro Donizetti. She was lured to opera because of the operatic presentations mounted by one of the first Filipino opera impresarios, Juan Javier.

Tapales held the record of being the first Filipina to sing with Italian opera superstars in the '30s such as the tenors Giacomo-Lauri-Volpi and Beniamino Gigli. She met Gigli in the Royal Opera House in Egypt were they sang lead roles in Mascagni's "Iris." They sang the same opera in Pavarotti's hometown, Modena, where they were conducted by no less than the opera composer himself, Mascagni. Gigli was also Tapales's Lt. Pinkerton in a performance of "Madama Butterfly" at the Opera Comique in Paris.

Pavarotti met Gigli, when the latter was only 12 and the former was in his 50s, after a rehearsal and told him he also wanted to be an opera singer. Gigli patted his head and told him, "Bravo! Bravo! *Ragazzino*. That is a fine ambition, but you must work very hard."

Jovita Fuentes, the second Filipina to sing "Madama Butterfly" at the Teatro Municipale in Piacenza, Italy, on April 29, 1925, was initially taught by an Italian voice teacher.

Another was coloratura soprano Mercedes Matias Santiago, the first Filipina to sing Gilda ("Rigoletto") at the Teatro Cummunale in Turin, Italy, in 1928, and now known as the country's foremost interpreter of Lucia di Lammermoor.

"I came from an opera-going family. At 15, I saw my first opera with my father. That was Jules Massenet's "Thais," and it was brought by an Italian impresario known as Adolfo Carpi. From that time on, I became obsessed with becoming an opera singer," recalled Maestra Santiago.

She took voice lessons with Galia Arellano and Victorino Carrion in Manila, then went to Milan in 1928 upon the recommendation of Italian diva Thea Carugati, who sang lead soprano roles in "Lucia," "Barber of Sevilla" and "Rigoletto" in Manila. Her other Italian teachers were baritone Aristide Anchesch, soprano Rossina Storchio and then Ugo Benvenuti, then director of La Scala di Milan. It was Benvenuti who invited her to sing for Mussolini at the Palazzo.

But the opera history was made by Filipino baritone Mossesgeld Santiago-Font, the first and last Filipino to make it at the La Scala di Milan, singing Sparafucile in "Rigoletto" in the late '20s.

"La Traviata" was said to have premiered in the country on May 2, 1933, with Nelia Manalo as Violetta and the tenor from Pasig, Octavio Cruz, as Alfredo.

Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" was first heard in Manila on Aug. 2, 1933, with Angela de Gonzaga as Santuzza and José Barredo as Turridu and Carmen Bernabe as Lola.

It may be noted here that before the advent of the Manila Symphony Orchestra, founded by Alexander Lippay in 1926, there was already an orchestral ensemble founded in1911 under Italian conductor Vincenzo Gambardella, also a voice and piano teacher then based in Manila.

In the mid-'50s, another famous Italian singer, Arrigo Pola, sang and taught in Manila. Among his outstanding students was Remedios Bosch Jimenez, with whom he sang "Il Trovatore" at the FEU Auditorium. Pola later taught in Japan and sang in embassy dinners with soprano Dalisay Aldaba, the first Filipina to sing "Butterfly" in New York. Pola happens to be the first teacher of Luciano Pavarotti.

Pola became so famous in Manila in the '50s that he appeared in a print commercial for San Miguel Beer and in a Filipino movie (a possible project for the Philippine-Italian Association to restore this Filipino film; the person to contact is Filipino film archivist Teddy Co).

The other legendary Italian singer that Pola brought to Manila was tenor Ferrucio Tagliavini, who had wanted to sing "La Boheme" with Jimenez but the plan didn't materialize. He sang Edgardo in an EMI recording of "Lucia di Lammermoor," with Maria Callas singing the title role.

What Jimenez (now known as the mother of Baby Arenas) could not forget was the night she heard Tagliavini sing Brahm's "Lullaby" in a private party in Manila. He sang it in exquisite pianissimo and Jimenez was sleepless for weeks over that performance.

Pavarotti himself was in awe of Tagliavini and recalled him in his biography ("Pavarotti: My Own Story"): "Tagliavini is from Reggio but, of course, was and is famous all over the world. He must have been in his late 40s then. He was one of my idols. It is difficult to explain the sensation, the emotion you feel when you are about to have the audacity to claim to be an operatic tenor and to be looking into the face of one of the foremost operatic tenors of the day. I nearly passed out from nervousness."

In the press conference before his performance in Manila in 1994, I asked Pavarotti how he felt knowing that Corelli and Tagliavini were first heard in Manila before him.

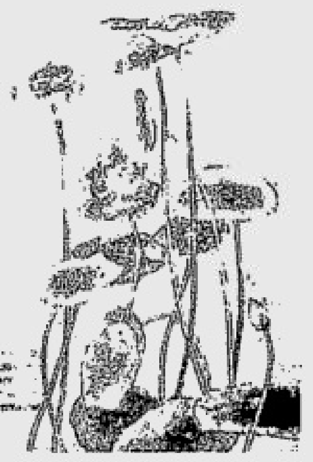
Pavarotti told me, "Tagliavini and Corelli are the greatest tenors of all time, and if I am able to do at least half of what they achieved in their time, I would be very happy."

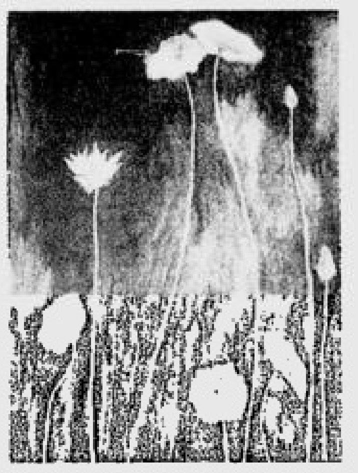
Here and there

There is a feast of classical music in Tuguegarao City starting Nov. 12 with the recital of tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, with pianist Najib Ismail and flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro, at the Mother Madeleine Hall of St. Paul University.

On Nov. 21, Cecile Licad will perform in the same hall. Her repertoire will include Beethoven's Sonata No.8, Liszt's "Two Legends of St. Francis," Busoni's "Mephisto Waltz" and Chopin's Fantaisie in F-Minor, Two Nocturnes Op. 48 and Scherzo No. 1 in B-Minor. The concert is organized by St. Paul University and Music News, in association with the City Government of Tuguegarao, Hotel Roma and with assistance from the Philippine-Italian Association.

For ticket inquiries, call St. Paul University at (078) 844-1863 local 143 or cell (0918)737-6901.


ZEN symbol


FLOWER with dreamy quality

Salvosa's bewitching lotus blossoms

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

AS THE LEGEND or probably truer story goes, the lotus blossom seedlings were brought to Japan from China. And the hard seeds, difficult to grow, lay hidden there for 1,000 years.

Centuries passed. Then, in the 1920s, a man with a green thumb heard about the hibernating lotus seeds from Manchuria. He hired schoolchildren to look for the seeds, and they were found! The gardening enthusiast planted these, and the Manchurian lotus flowers began to bloom again after almost a millennium.

Way back in the 1970s, visual artist Jonah Salvosa was drawn to the lotus blossom as a subject matter when he was a student at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts. It had to do with his becoming a disciple of Zen.

Before that, there were many "isms" in art, as taught in school, that were confusing him ("*Nanggugulo sa isip ko*"): Cubism, Dadaism, Impressionism, Expressionism, Abstractionism and Classicism.

"Through meditation, I was able to unload all these," Salvosa said.

Thus, I gathered from him, Zen is a way of life that stresses oneness with the world and with the universe, spiritual awakening, meditation, peace of mind and peace with humankind.

This entails an anti-war stance. "Muslims and Christians may wage war but you do not see the [Zen] Buddhists doing that," observed the artist.

"So I meditated and I saw myself," he continued. "This is what I experienced from Zen. *May umuusbong na rin. Nakita ko ang sarili ko.* (Something was developing. I found myself)."

The lotus blossom was identified with Zen, but, strangely, Salvosa did not tackle the flower then for his paintings and watercolors. Through the years, as his career progressed and he began to win awards, he did a series on women, social realism, ecology and other themes.

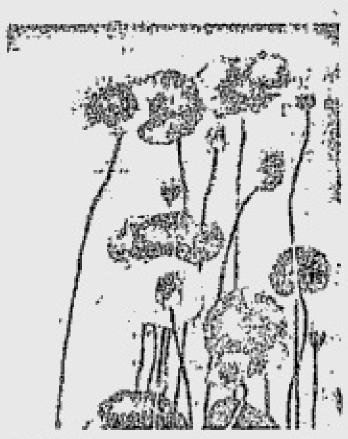
It wasn't until this year that his love for the lotus returned in full force, following a trip to Malaysia and Thailand. He saw the lotuses, photographed them, brought some seeds and tried to grow them here with some difficulty.

But what is the symbol of the lotus blossom?

Salvosa reflects a bit and makes this point: "They grow in muddy water, in the mud. [They are not exactly water lilies or water hyacinths, although some would call them that.] *Sa una, nahihirapan sila.* (At first, they have difficulty growing). Just like people and their problems. Then, from dirt, they begin to grow and bloom, become pure."

For his latest solo show, "Recalling Kensho" (Japanese word for enlightenment), the artist has selected 11 acrylic interpretations of the lotus. The show is ongoing until Nov. 18. at Cravings in Shangri-La Plaza Edsa, Mandaluyong.

These are fanciful variations of the flower, with a dreamy quality. It may underscore the artist's possibly Shakespearean, probably Zen-influenced philosophy: *"Ang buhay ay isang panaginip lamang."* (Life is but a dream).


FROM the mud to pure bloom

Lumbera to receive UST literary award

LUMBERA

BIENVENIDO Lumbera will receive this year's Parangal Hagbong, the annual literary honor given by the Varsitarian, the 74-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, during the 18th Annual Gawad Ustetika campus literary awards on Nov. 16 at the lobby of the UST Main Building.

The Parangal Hagbong is given to UST alumni who have contributed greatly to the growth of Philippine letters. Previous recipients were Rolando Tinio, Rogelio Sicat, Genoveva Edrosa Matute, National Artist for the Visual Arts J. Elizalde Navarro (awarded for his art criticism), Erma Quizon, Reynaldo Duque, Ponciano Pineda and Lilia Pablo Amansec.

This year's Hagbong is especially noteworthy because the paper is celebrating its 75th foundation anniversary. In order to make the celebration more memorable, the screening committee decided to award it to a Varsitarian alumnus. Lumbera was literary editor of the paper in the 1950s.

Lumbera is one of the country's foremost critics, playwrights and poets. He finished journalism, cum laude, at UST, and obtained his doctorate in comparative literature from Indiana University, USA. In 1993, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication.

The Hagbong will be the highlight of the 18th Gawad Ustetika, the country's longest-running campus literary contest. Judges this year include Lumbera, Mike Coroza, Cirilo Bautista, Ophelia Dimalanta, Benilda Santos, D.M. Reyes, Jose Wendell Capili, J. Neil Garcia, Christine Ortega, Jaime An Lim, Lourd de Veyra, Ramil Gulle, Ferdinand Lopez, Jose Victor Torres Rosario Cruz-Lucero and Rebecca Añonuevo.

The first prizewinners in poetry, story and essay in English and Filipino will qualify for the Rector's Literary Award, UST's highest student literary prize. It is given to the work that best reflects the Catholic vision of the Pontifical University.

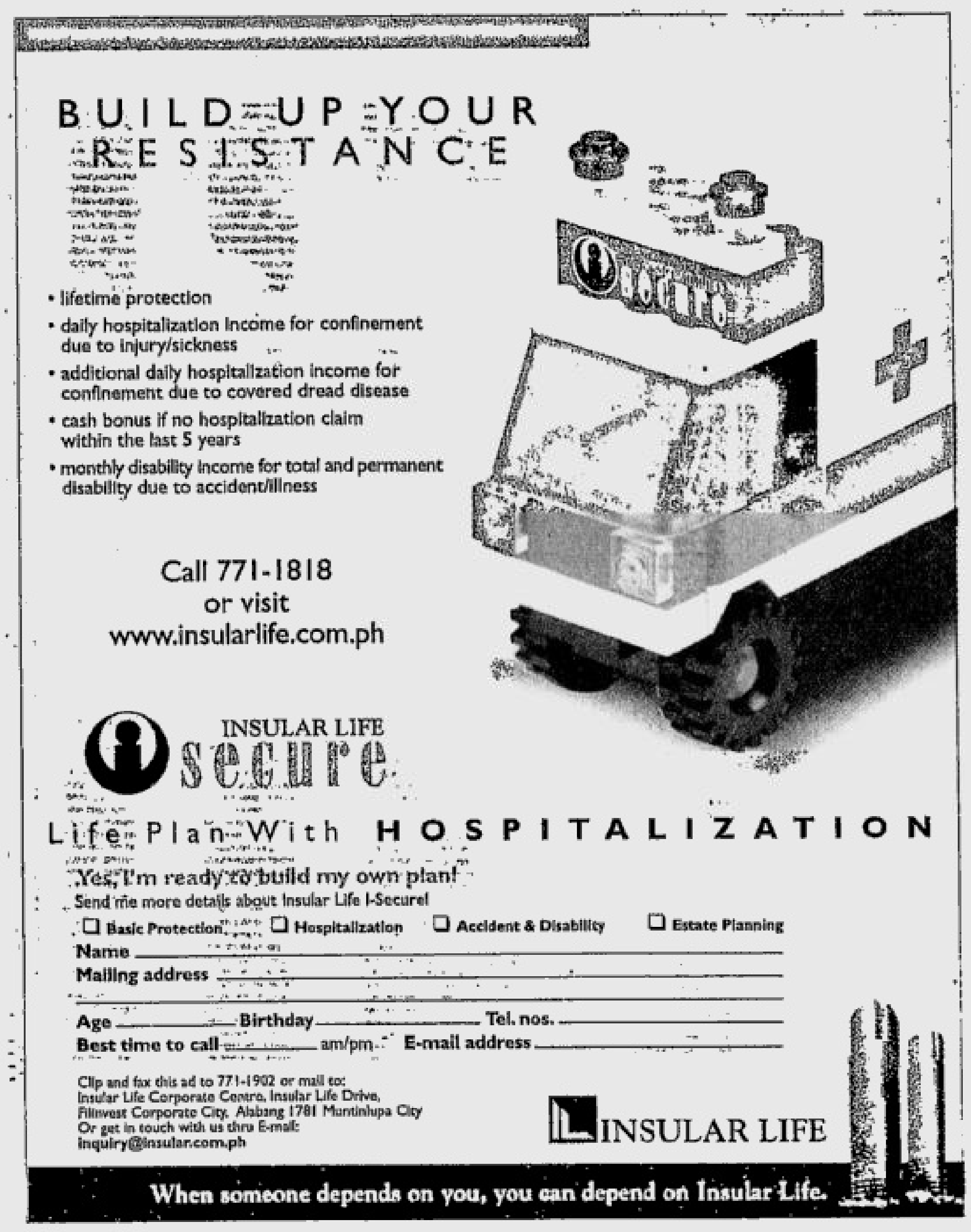
NCCA launches new writers series

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) invites applicants to the "Ubod, The New Authors Series." It is open to serious writers of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and play in any Philippine language who have not been published in book form.

The NCCA is accepting manuscripts of any of the following: 20-40 poems; 5-10 short stories; 5-20 creative non-fiction; or one play, on or before Dec. 2. The works will be printed in chapbook form. It will be the reader's first taste of *ubod*, the sweet core of palm or bamboo, the heart of writing shared with others.

A pool of literary heavyweights will pick the 30 most promising voices in Philippine writing.

Send curriculum vitae and manuscripts (double space, 12 fonts) in hardcopy and electronic file to Glenn Maboloc, Public Affairs and Information, NCCA, 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 527-2192 local 614 or 527-5529.



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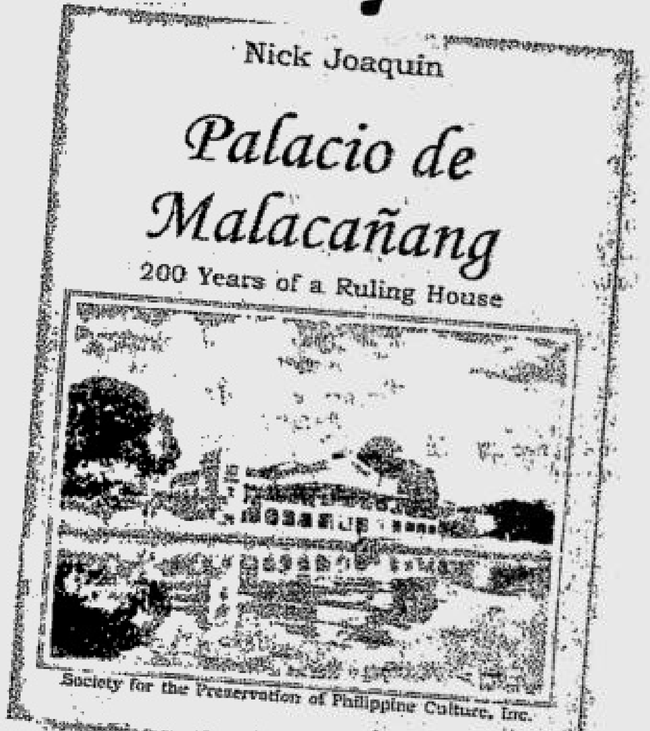
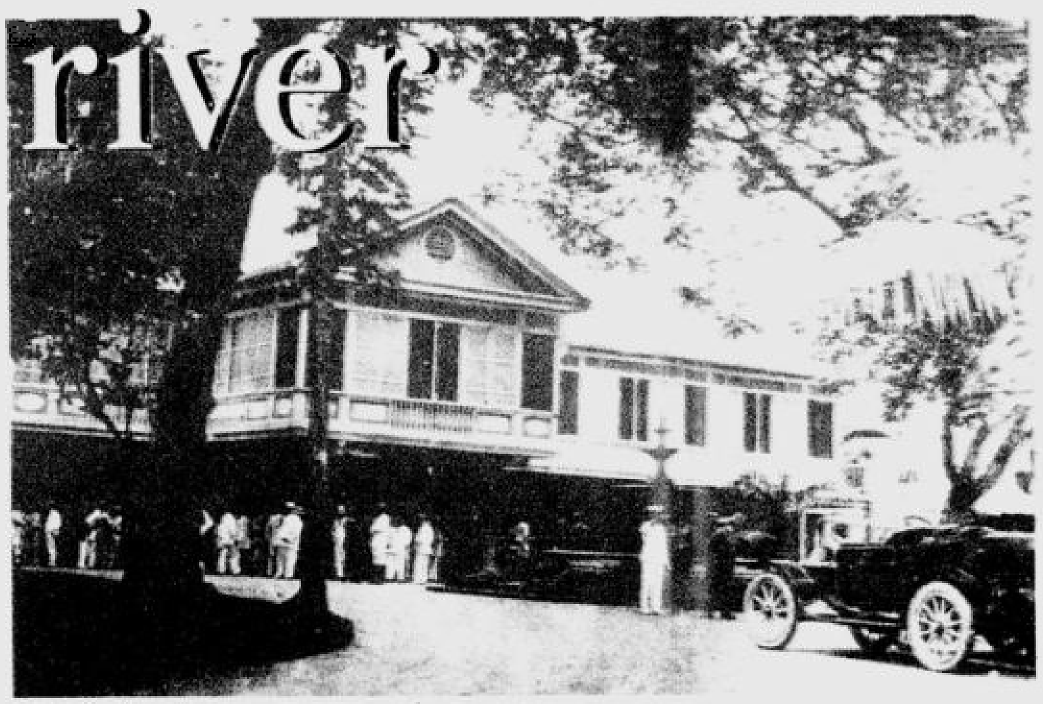
The house by the river

Palacio de Malacañang: 200 Years of a Ruling House
By Nick Joaquin
Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture, 2002; 367 pages

By James P. Ong
Contributor



Nick Joaquin
Palacio de Malacañang
200 Years of a Ruling House
Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture, Inc.



MALACAÑANG during the American Period

OH, the yesteryears. If there is any one writer who has become successful in chronicling the history of Manila, and making present-day readers feel cursed for living in such an uncivilized milieu, that's Nick Joaquin.

In "Palacio de Malacañang," a coffeetable-cum-history book, the National Artist for Literature gamely unrolls the tapestry that is Malacañang Palace—beginning as early as 1825 (from a thesis by Ileana Maramag) when the Spanish acquired the land from the estate of a Colonel Formento, who himself had bought it for a thousand pesos in 1802 from his close friend Don Luis Rocha.

REVIEW

Joaquin is an excellent storyteller, and his defiant use of the passive voice lends an almost wistful mood when there was still no Makati and no Alabang, when Manileños still spoke Spanish, when Sundays at church "looked like a society fashion show," when the Arrabal de San Miguel was "Manila's Mayfair, the nation's swankiest neighborhood."

At times, however, the author can get too argumentative, as in an overextended chapter on how, exactly, Malacañang got its name. That part we leave to the readers to peruse in their own time.

The book is a project of the Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture, or what used to be the Museo ng Malacañang Foundation, first formed under the Aquino administration.

Origins

Malacañang's original owner, Don Luis Rocha, "built his magnificent country retreat in the 1750s, a time when the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade flourished. He converted 16 hectares of swampland along Pasig River into one large, well-planned garden as a lovely setting for his mansion."

Although serving only as a country home for Rocha, "a Creole who had married into the Manila Tuasons," it had gained a reputation for hosting the most elegant parties for the Spanish gentility and Manila's elite in his time.

Adds Maramag: "Often the Rocha villa in San Miguel, lavish with bubbling fountains and well-trimmed gardens, was ablaze with lights and crowded with guests who enjoyed being away from the monastic atmosphere within the walls of Intramuros." For, at this time, the seat of power was still located at Palacio Real in the Walled City.

Originally intended by the Spanish government only as a summer retreat house for the viceroys, *la posesion de* Malacañang was first turned into a real home in 1863 by Gov. Rafael Echague, and into a home and administrative office in 1863 by Gen. Joaquin Jovellar y Soler.

Guests

Through the years the Palace has been host to many important figures in the world. Joaquin writes about most of them and even shares tidbits about the visits of Prince Oscar of Sweden in 1885 (for the first time, a flagpole was installed in front of the palace); or of Prince Alexis of Russia in 1891 (who never did make it to the Russian throne—Malacañang was the closest he got to being treated like a king).

Why, even Emilio Aguinaldo, the "insurrectionist," was a palace guest for nearly a month in 1901 (when it was Gen. Arthur MacArthur residing) following his capture by the Americans, and even long after his surrender and abolition of the Republic of the Philippines in April 1 of that year.

"While in Malacañang [he] was treated with respect, though always under guard, and was allowed visitors" in his bedroom suite.

Nick Joaquin applies his prose and myth-making power in writing the history of the house where Filipino power was used and abused

One of them was a young major, Manuel Luis Quezon, "who felt a tear in his eye, a lump in his throat" as his commander in chief declared that he had surrendered.

More than 30 years later, Quezon would find himself once again in Malacañang, this time as its rightful tenant, as President of the Philippine Commonwealth.

Big spender

From the start, Malacañang bled money.

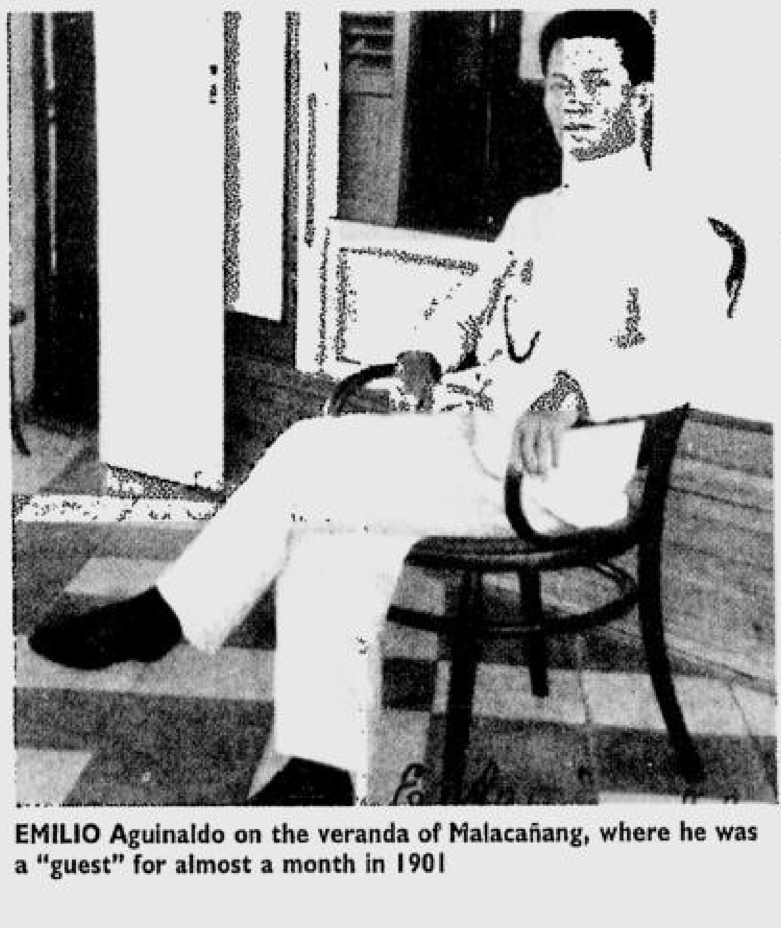
Joaquin writes about the governors' endless correspondences with Spain, asking for more and more money either for repairs from damages due to natural calamities, or to build extensions that would put it at par with its wealthy neighbors.

In 1886, it ran up P22,000 for "a new wharf, new quarters for the halberdiers, new servants' quarters, an extra garage for visitors' carriages, a riverside fence, a stable for sick horses, a barn for grain and fodder, and sentry boxes for the four principal gates... cages for animals, including deer and an aviary. The First Families enjoyed a miniature zoo."

Fast-forward to more contemporary times, and that social-climbing desire to be the best house in the block is repeated many times over during the tenancy of the Marcoses.

Quoting the historian Carlos Quirino, and contrary to public perception that the Marcoses were flamboyant from the start, the book notes that, during Ferdinand Marcos' first 10 years in the Palace, "not much was done to the edifice except for repairs."

Soon enough, however, "as the available money increased because of billions of dollars borrowed from foreign banks, radical changes took place," including the 1976-1977 renovation that transformed the square-shaped building into one that was "completely enclosed for air-conditioning and greater security."



EMILIO Aguinaldo on the veranda of Malacañang, where he was a "guest" for almost a month in 1901

Clean-up

Where Imelda Marcos was a big spender, Eva Macapagal was a spendthrift. She and President Diosdado were obsessed about cleanliness "for him [it] called honesty; for her [it] called next to godliness."

So concerned was Ms Macapagal with cleanliness that she decided not to move her family to the Palace until cleaning it up first for half a month. "She found it gorgeous but filthy, and she buckled down to scrubbing away the grime of decades... 'You should have seen the *basura* everywhere!' she exclaims."

Ms Macapagal didn't like buying things and instead retrieved stuff from the storeroom, had them cleaned, or just rearranged what was already in the rooms—like a Lazy Susan made of silver, which she had polished and placed in the banquet area of the state dining room "where it proved to be a prime conversation piece."

Joaquin writes about Ms Macapagal: "She cleaned, she rearranged, she repaired—but her renovations hewed strictly to the ground of the Palace: its integrity, its spirit. She respected history and tradition."

That same trait seems to have been passed on to the Palace's present tenant, Ms Macapagal's own daughter, Gloria, who had spent her early teenage years there.

And although President Macapagal-Arroyo's term isn't included in "Palacio," if she turns out to be as good a "cleaner" as her parents, and not take the country to the cleaners like the Marcoses did, she will deserve her own book in due time.

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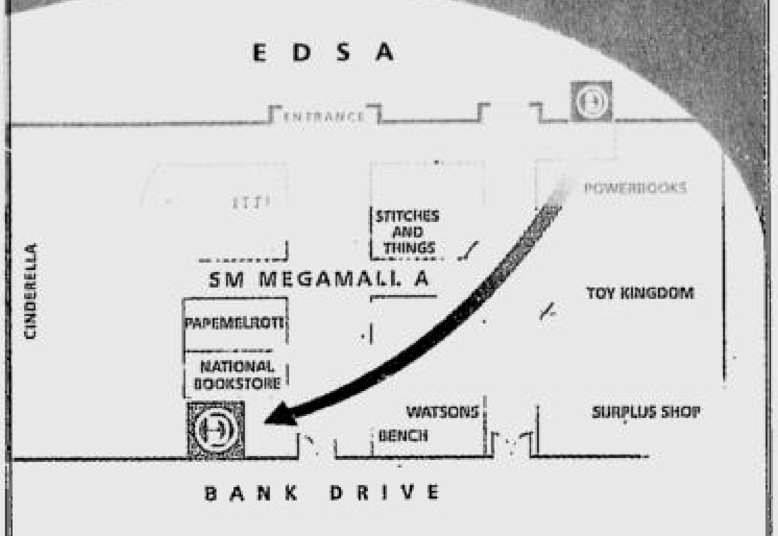

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'Choke' by Chuck Palahnink

Victor Mancini, scam artist extraordinaire, has finally gotten the perfect scam right: pay for mom's hospital care by choking in restaurants and living off on the people who "save his life." Funny, hard-biting and insightful, "Choke" is the latest novel from the author of lauded "Fight Club."

'About a Boy' by Nick Hornby

Made into a major motion picture starring Hugh Grant, Hornby's follow up to his best-selling novel "High Fidelity" brings us back to England. Will Freeman has been living life without care. However, his life takes a sudden turn when his commitment-free dating scheme involving single mothers backfires, and he becomes friends with a boy young enough to be his son.

'Glue' by Irvine Welsh

From the author of "Trainspotting" comes a fast-paced and funny novel about four boys who grow up together in Edinburgh. "Glue" is a tale of friendship, peer pressure and class discrimination that bring to mind our own wonder years.

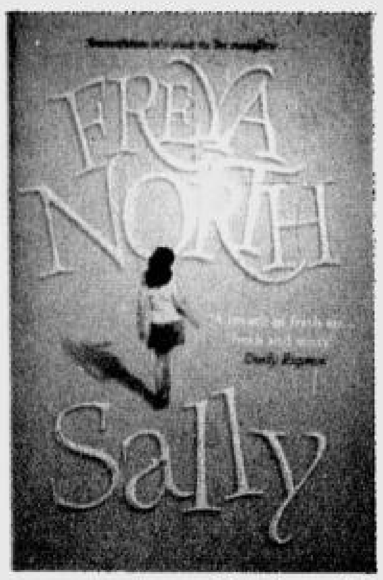
Bagels for
NEIL ROSE

'Bagels for Breakfast' by Neil Rose

Mark Elliot is the perfect catch, but Ms Right is nowhere in sight. For Mark, women are like buses: not a sign of one for ages, then two suddenly come along, leaving him with more women than he can handle.

'Shopaholic Ties the Knot' by Sophie Kinsella

Shopaholics, rejoice! Beloved Becky Bloomswood is back with more charge-card woes and shopping pleasures. After landing her dream job as a personal shopper, Luke's proposal sends Becky into another shopping frenzy—a bridal shopping frenzy, that is.



'Single White E-Mail' by Jessica Adams

"Single White E-Mail" is a must-read for all Bridget Jones fans, written by up-and-coming British writer, Jessica Adams, who has been compared to both Nick Hornby and Helen Fielding. Victoria "Total Bloody Relationships Disaster" Shepworth has accepted the fact that she will forever be by her lonesome every Saturday night. Because disastrous dates have left her jaded, will hunting for the man of her dreams on the Internet be her only way out?

'I'm a Believer' by Jessica Adams

Jessica Adam's latest best-seller is a funny and moving novel about Mark Buckle, an ordinary bloke with a not-so-remarkable existence—that is, until his girlfriend, Catherine, dies in an accident. However, even death cannot keep both apart, for Catherine's ghost keeps Mark company, gives him advice about life, and even sends him someone new to love.

'Sally' by Freya North

"Sally" is Powerbooks Author of the Month, Freya North's claim to fame in Britain. Sally is a schoolteacher who has had enough of her boring love life, and has decided to reinvent herself as a femme fatale and all-around sex goddess. Throw in a bachelor and you're in for a wild roller-coaster joyride.

'Fen' by Freya North

Freya North's latest best-seller chronicles a new heroine, Fen. Fen McCabe has loved only one man—the long-deceased 19th-century sculptor, Julius Fetherstone. Fen's family and friends have given up hope on Fen falling for anyone born in the 20th century, until two warm-blooded men catch her eye. Now, Fen wonders if it is possible to fall in love with two men at the same time.

'What Goes Around' by Alexandra Carew

Cat Wellesley used to have a great job, a lousy boss, and a seriously vile boyfriend. This year, she lands a lousy job, a great boss, and finds herself fantasizing about her boss. Will Cat ever live a perfect life?

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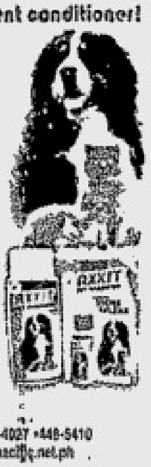

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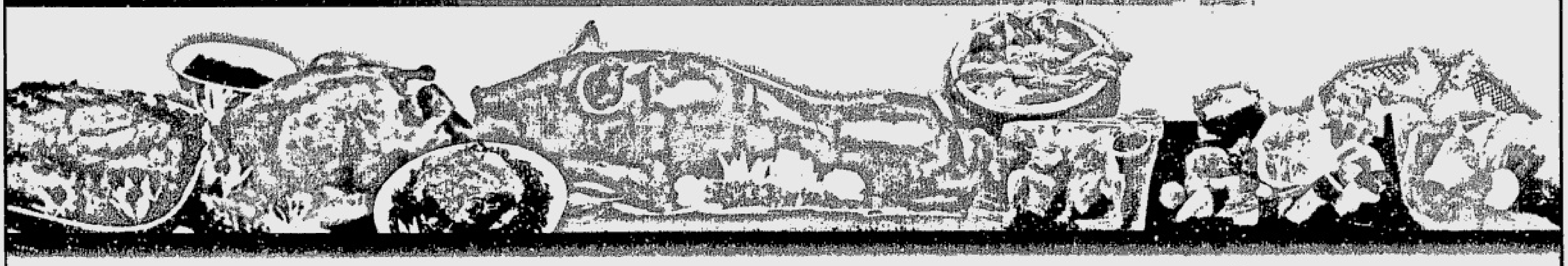

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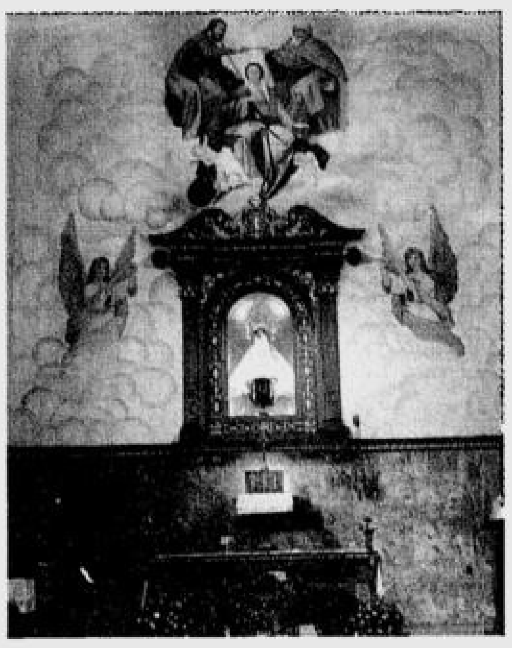
In the realm of ecclesiastical art



NUESTRA Sra. de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE RENAISSANCE reached its summit with Michelangelo's supreme masterpieces of religious art commissioned by the papacy: the Tomb of Pope Julius II, the Sistine Ceiling, the Medici Chapel, St. Peter's Church, "The Last Judgment."

During the Baroque period, although he appeared to some as Antichrist personified, Bernini achieved in his "fusion of sculpture, architecture and painting into a magnificent decorative whole" his most sophisticated creations, which are considered "appropriate settings for the mysteries of the Catholic faith."

Michelangelo's and Bernini's heroic creations, including their handiworks of ecclesiastical interior design, are among the most important not only in Christendom but also in the world of Western art.

"This kind of work started in the time of the Renaissance *pa, tayo ngayon lang,*" says furniture and interior designer Antonio S. Adriano.

Before, aside from a basic knowledge of architecture, engineering and the liturgy, church design was largely borne on the artist's aesthetic sense and the patron's taste, or, in the case of Michelangelo, on the whim of the Pope. Today, if you're doing church design, innumerable things have to be considered.

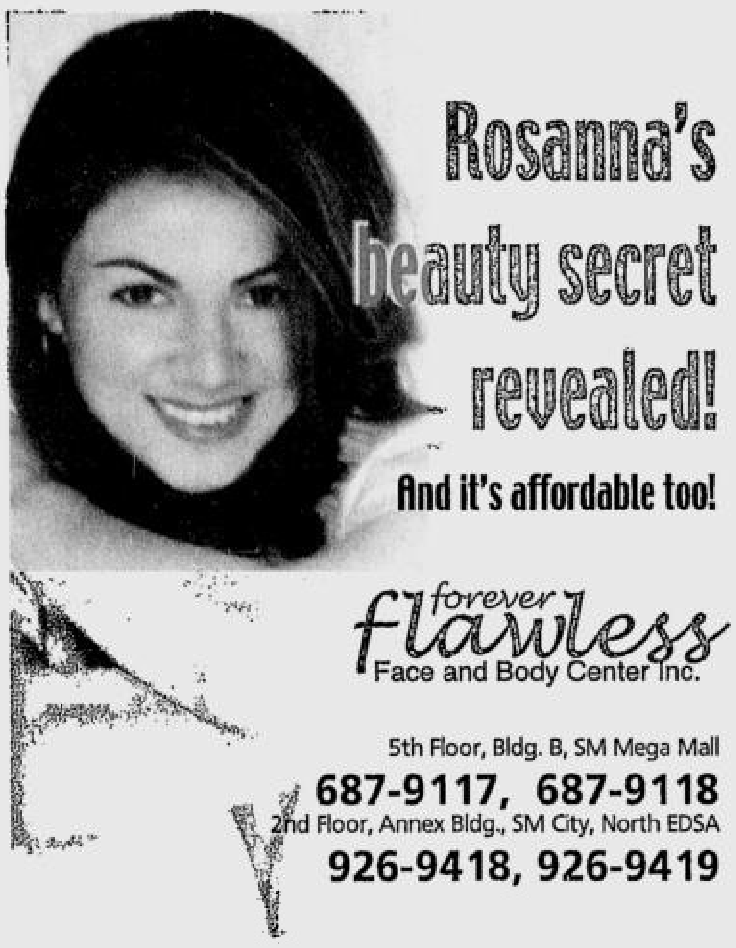
"You have to learn the guidelines, you have to follow the requirements of church architecture," says Adriano. "You have to know the historical background of the church as well, who constructed it, how it was constructed. You should be familiar with its original physical appearance."

Focal point

The design has to be approved by the archdiocese. If there is a parish council, it also has to approve it with the parish priest.

The designer must consult the Episcopal Commission on Liturgy for the requirements of the altar. The tabernacle, for example, has to be bolted, to ensure there would be no desecration. The al-

IN THE REALM/ p.F2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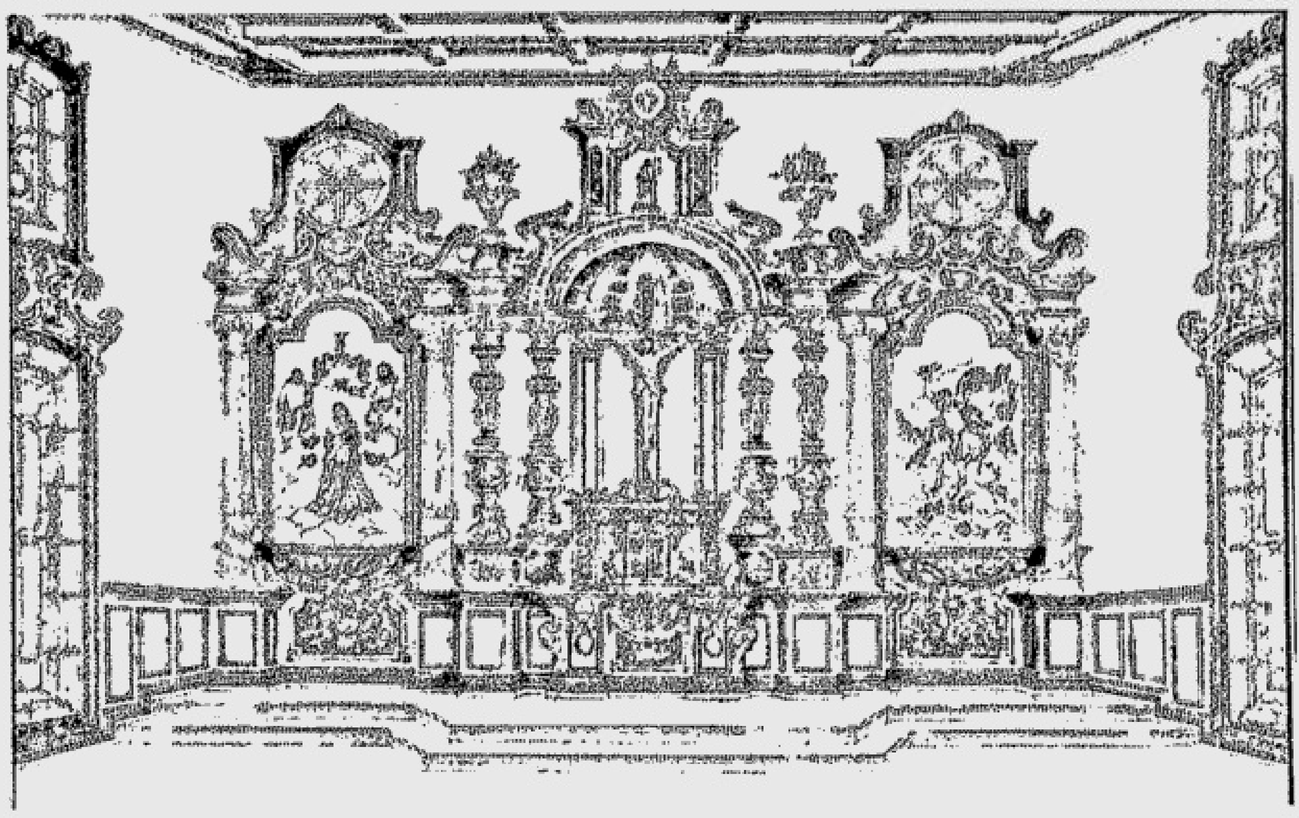
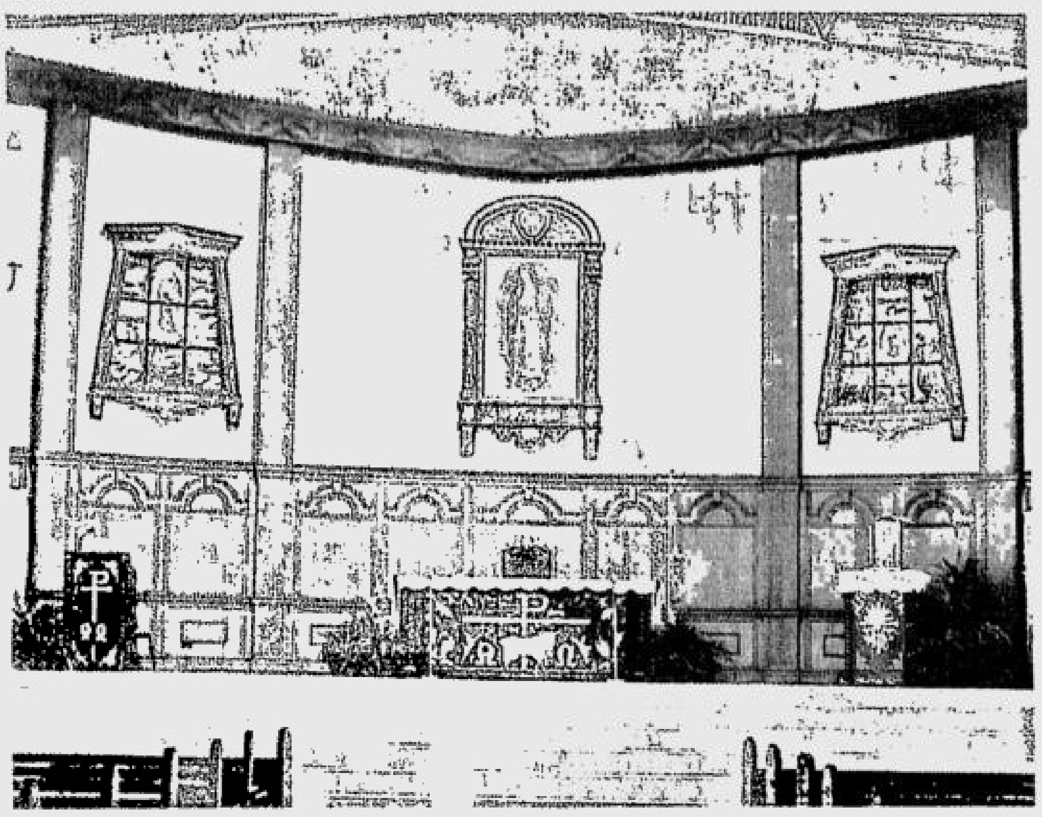


SAINT Michael the Archangel Church in Marilao, Bulacan



OUR Lady of Guadalupe Church, Makati City

In the realm of ecclesiastical art

From page F1

tar table must also be bolted so it is not moveable.

"There are other points to consider," continues Adriano. "You have to know the movements of the ceremony, the liturgical symbols, the basic practice of your religion."

If a church interior is to be renovated, the altar has to be close to the people. This must be the focal point of the interiors, because this is where the transubstantiation of the Eucharist occurs.

After Vatican II, the reform in Church practices and modifications of the liturgy have necessarily affected church design. Unlike in the old days, for example, the communion rail and the pulpit are no longer practicable, as they tend to divide or segregate the clergy from the laity. The sound system must be clear for the full understanding of the homily. All these are to ensure the whole participation of the people during the Mass.

"Then there's culture and heritage to be considered," says Adriano. "You adapt your design to the tradition of the parishioners. Some churches cannot just be renovated, *hindi puwedeng bakbakin*, because, you know, there may be old donations that have sentimental values to certain parishioners. You work around that."

Fine tradition

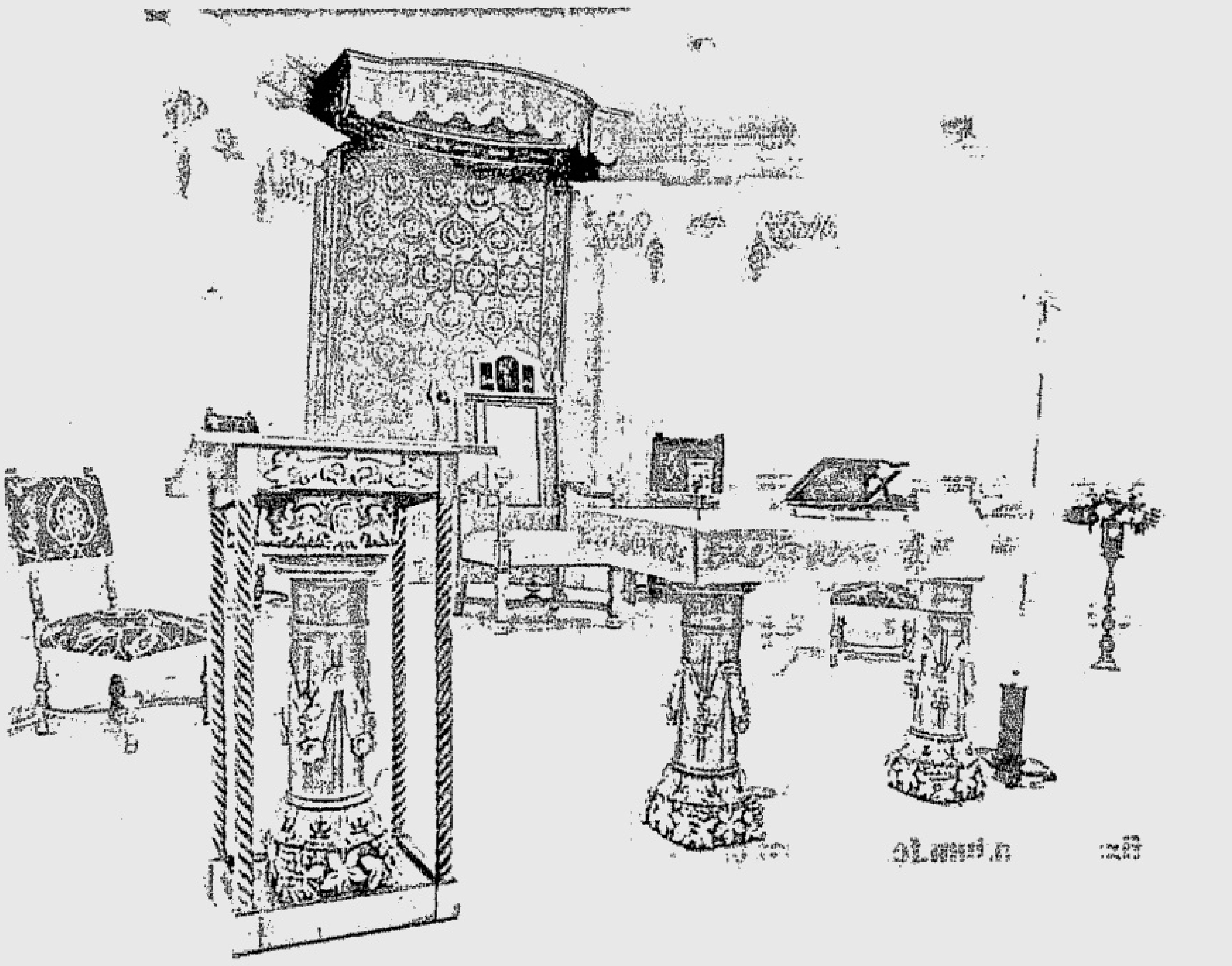
Adriano grew up behind the Ermita church, where his father was the *recamadero* and the boy was a sacristan. Later, the son also became the *recamadero*, tasked to take care of the image of the Nuestra Señora de Guia, its jewelry and dresses, the same task he was later assigned to do for the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Makati.

Son of furniture designer Avelino (who did the interiors of the Manila Cathedral in the 1960s), he got his degree in Fine Arts, major in Interior Design, from the University of Santo Tomas. He took further studies in Paris.

When his father died, he took over the furniture business the former established in 1911. And with his mother Rosario as guide and inspiration, he has continued the family tradition of making fine furniture that's fit for a Pope. (He was the Filipino designer commissioned to do the papal chair and the interiors of the papal van during Pope John Paul II's 1995 Manila visits.)

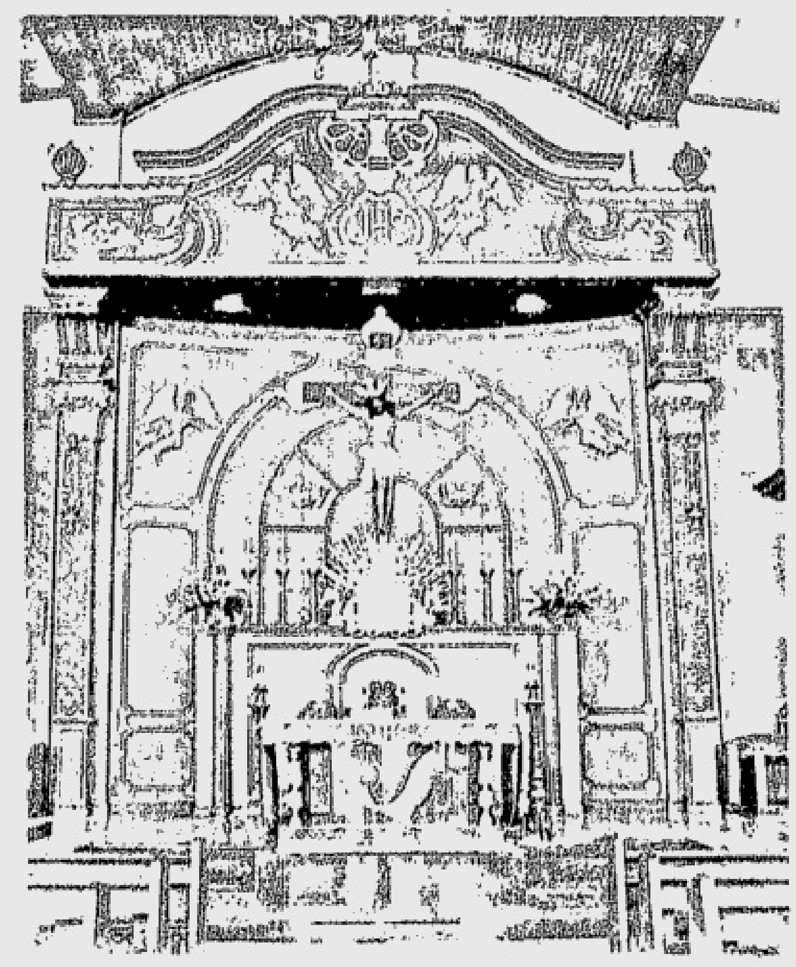
When he started designing furniture in 1983, he was also doing ecclesiastical art. Now he is more into designing church interiors, particularly the main altar and the side altars, and has expanded into designing liturgical vestments as well.

He has designed over 20 church interiors in Metro Manila. These include the interiors of the churches of Ermita, Antipolo and Navotas; the chapels of Villa San Miguel, Malacañang Palace and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila; Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in New Manila; Santuario de San José in Greenhills.



ARCHBISHOP'S Palace Chapel, Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong City

SAN Gabriel Church, Caloocan City



Ongoing projects include the churches of Nasugbu, Marilao, Mangatarem, and another one in Navotas.

Every Holy Week, he designs and decorates the Altar of Repose of the churches of Ermita, Guadalupe and Navotas, and the Shrine of the Congregacion de Sto. Niño at the Violago Compound in Quezon City.

"This is my lay ministry," says Adriano.

Period style

Tony S. Adriano Furniture has its main office and showroom in Adriano Building at Edsa corner Quingua Street, Makati City. The establishment is celebrating its 91st anniversary on Nov. 13.

Adriano has a staff of eight, composed of architects, engineers (working on load and structure), full-sizers (drawing the design in exact scale). He employs carvers from Pampanga, with 20-30 carvers working at the same time on a project.

Adriano works closely with assistant designer Noli R. Veridico. The duo is partial to period style.

A typical design is characterized by intricate detailing and lavish adornment, mostly carving and gilding, in the style of the Renaissance, the Baroque, the Rococo. Adriano is quick to say, however, that he also does the simpler Gothic, with less carving. And the Minimalist, the modern, such as the National Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus he did at Nichol's Airbase.

"But no ethnic," he says. "Let's face it, it's not lasting. *Gagamit ka d'yan ng banig, gagamit ka ng* bamboo, and these materials are *binubokbok.*"

If he has his way, everything should be opulent as befits the house of God. His papal chair, for example, though classical in its elegant simplicity, is of solid narra with upholstery covered with white silk and carving gilded with 23-k gold leaf.

Or, it may just be a chapel, but the altar is ornate and ablaze with red and gold, with a Mediterranean-style ceremonial chair for the priest at the center flanked by Savonarola chairs, all of hardwood and thick silk.

Adriano says he uses three to five layers of gold leaf on a carving, and his silk upholstery is coated with chemical to make it water-repellant and last for about 20 years. The materials, he adds, are sourced from the United States and Europe.

DESIGNER Tony Adriano

"*Iba ang* color *ng* upholstery for church interiors," he says. "This should be in white, red, gold or ivory. Blue is a no-no."

Main problem

For a church with a seating capacity of 1,000, such as the one of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Marilao, Bulacan, it would take him an average of five months to complete the installation of main altar, side altars and interior decoration.

This is continuous work with overtime. Work is done component by component, with about a month spent for each component.

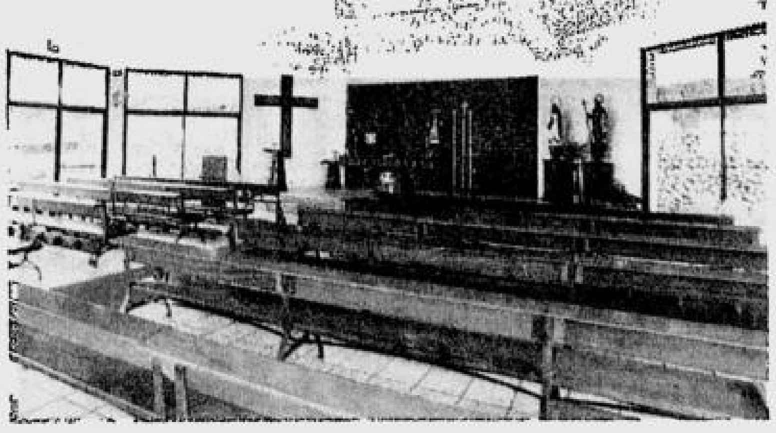
If ever he encounters a problem, this is mainly the funding, that is, budget shortage. That can greatly affect the work, though it is not stopped, merely slowed down.

He also draws a memorandum of agreement with donors, that in case of a change of parish priest, the new priest cannot just change the design according to his whim.

"This is more of a labor of love," Adriano says. "I can work with churches with small budget. It can be plywood. But I just have one specification, that the wood must be treated. Because this is my lifetime legacy. You don't change church interiors every day. They're changed only in 50-100 years—*ganu'n katagal.*"

Then, of course, there is the criticism of extravagance from certain parishioners. But he has learned to accept that with a smile.

"It comes usually from people who do not help the church," he says. "They would say, Why undertake this expensive project when *maraming nagugutom*? The argument against that is, This is the house of God, and we're just expressing our gratitude and affection for Him. Work such as this doesn't end with the renovation of the church. It also means we should start renovating ourselves."



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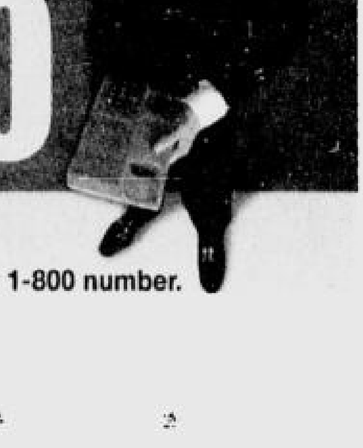

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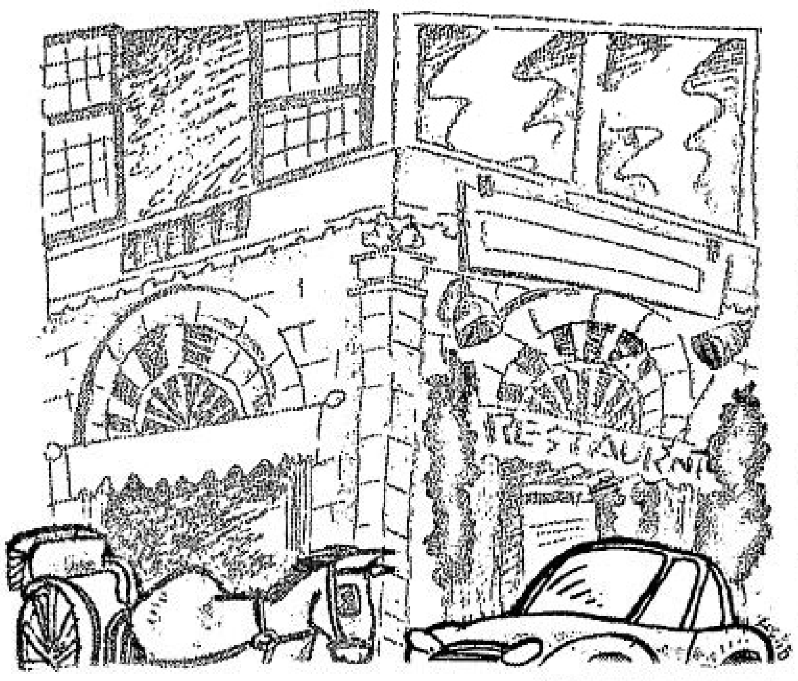


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Conclusion

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE PRESERVATIONS of heritage is seen by many, government authorities and citizens alike, as anti-progress. The old symbolizes poverty and oppression. The new symbolizes economic and technological advance.

The outlook follows the theory put forward by the German economist Schumpeter in the late 1940s, after the end of World War II. He said that the old must give way to the new, that progress was achieved over the ruins of what was outdated.

The process Schumpeter espoused was one of "creative destruction." Although the process is outdated, it still is the frame of reference of many of today's decision-makers in Manila.

The existing frame of reference explains the lack of appropriate legislative framework on the national and municipal levels to protect heritage from disappearing.

Heritage is viewed as "dead" rather than "living." Dead heritage is a collection of monuments to be viewed at a distance like a museum. Living heritage looks at old buildings as a resource for architectural reuse, keeping them in contemporary service.

Most important of all, the preservation of architectural heritage, the preservation of heritage neighborhoods and parks, and the reuse of old buildings for modern uses retain the unique visual identity that separates Manila from other cities of the world.

Heritage is, therefore, a tool for the development of national pride and, ultimately, one of the tools necessary for the nation-building that the Philippines so sorely needs at this point in her history.

> The Filipino regards his heritage cavalierly. Before he realizes it, most of his heritage will be gone

The Heritage Conservation Society (HCS) is an NGO organized four years ago to foster national awareness of the need to preserve our heritage, to interface with government authorities on heritage matters, and to set the example that the preservation of heritage improves the quality of life of the Filipino.

The primary focus of the HCS activities is the passing of the Landmarks Law that will finally set the legal framework to protect all of the heritage structures in the country.

Heritage is protected by a series of overlapping laws. The National Historical Institute (NHI) Law protects landmarks and historic shrines. The National Museum (NM) is empowered to protect National Treasures. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is empowered to coordinate administratively both the NHI and NM, as well as undertake preservation activities on its own as well.

The Landmarks Law seeks to unite the government agencies with the NGOs to promote and regulate the preservation and maintenance of heritage, and to implement incentives for preservation.

To increase consciousness of our vanishing heritage, the HCS conducts weekly walking tours of Manila's heritage zones. Tours to neighboring provinces are also conducted during summer.

Heritage advances

The preservation of historical and architectural landmarks has risen to public consciousness only in recent years. With the unnecessary demolition of the Art Deco Jai Alai Building (ca 1939) in Manila, the HCS made the public aware that there was a need to identify and undertake a physical record of our architectural heritage in order to be able to protect it.

A second campaign by the HCS to prevent the construction of a campus on the historic Mehan Garden, an important archaeological site that became a park in central Manila, has not yet been resolved. On the opposite end of the park, a transportation terminal was completed despite a cease-and-desist order issued by the Department of the Environment and National Resources (DENR) early in the construction process.

Recently the fine imposed by the DENR has equaled the cost of the building. The DENR has demanded collection of the accumulated fine from the Park and Ride developer.

Contingent to the Mehan Garden issue is maintaining the Arroceros Forest Park as an open space rather than allowing dormitories to be constructed in the forested area located next to Mehan Garden.

Architects and landscape architects, members of the HCS, contributed their expertise in the design of the Liwasang Bonifacio Park located between the Manila Post Office and Mehan Garden. The large number of visitors to the park is testimony to the people-friendly redesigned park, incorporating an outdoor sculpture gallery designed and curated by an HCS member.

The Liwasang Bonifacio design has been adapted by the City of Manila for the Roxas Boulevard landscaping along Manila Bay.

The HCS assisted the heritage town of Carcar in Cebu in forming an affiliate Heritage Society that successfully battled the construction of a highway that would have bisected the town. The Presidential Assistant for Central Visayas supported the issue and was instrumental in the declaration of Carcar as a heritage town.

Authorities in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental planned to expand the port facilities that would have taken a part of the city's historic seaside boulevard, destroying the cultural landscape qualities of the area. It also would have blocked the access to historic Silliman Hall, reputed to be the first structure built in the country during the American regime.

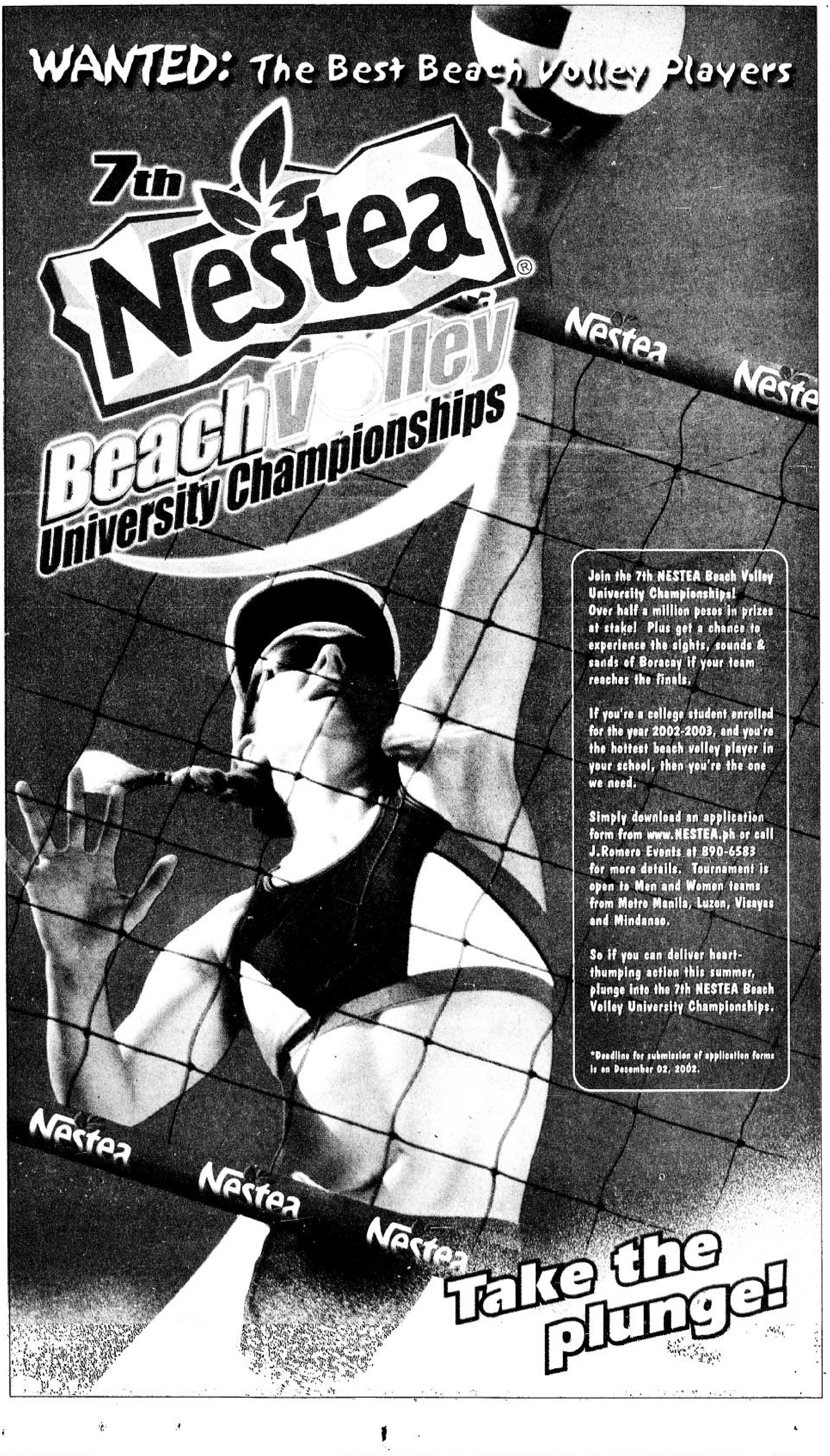
The HCS assisted Silliman University in finding a solution to the issue and conducted community consultation meetings. To protect the Silliman University campus, the Society secured Landmark status for the site from the NHI.

As a result, a consultative meeting will be held by the Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas, the mayor of Dumaguete, the Philippine Ports Authority and Silliman University, to determine a people-friendly solution to the port expansion that maintains the unique heritage of Dumaguete and Silliman University. This is one of the first examples of a multisectoral decision process to determine a development project undertaken by a government agency.

To date, heritage sites continue to be destroyed, renovated beyond recognition, or allowed to deteriorate. The activities of the HCS focus on increasing awareness that the preservation of heritage will establish a pride of place among Filipinos, and also to allow public and private owners of heritage sites to turn a profit and create jobs in heritage-related industries.

The Filipino regards his heritage cavalierly. Before he realizes it, most of his heritage will be gone. It is hard to talk about all of the heritage preservation chances that Manila has "missed." Unless we do something about it now, we will have to forever talk about Manila in the past tense.

The article was drawn from the author's paper "Urban Revitalization and Governance in Asia," read before the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners on Oct. 24-25.



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